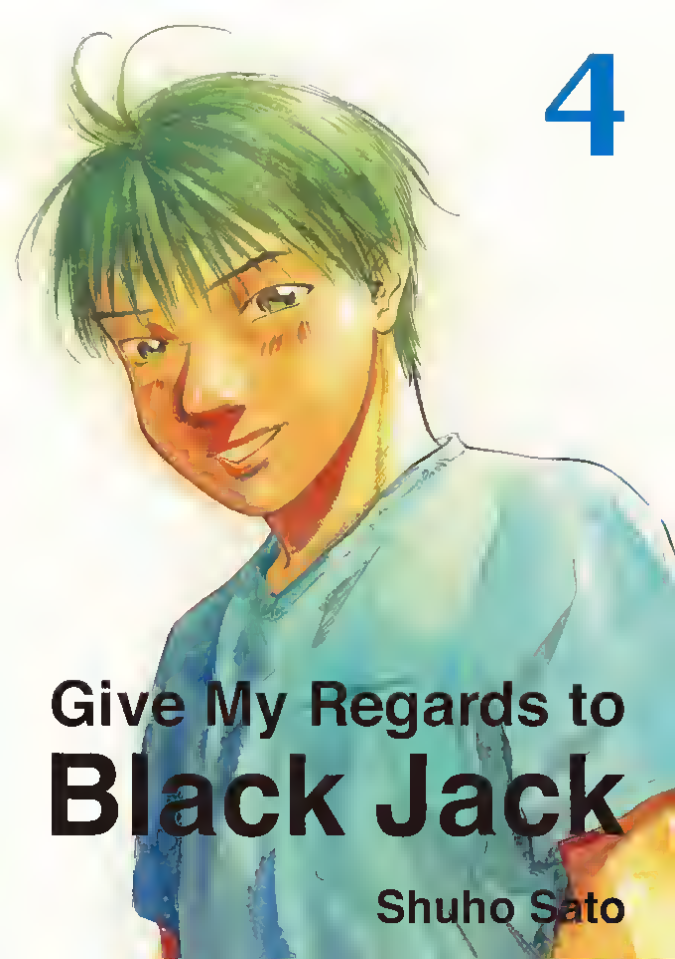

4
Give My Regards to
Black Jack
Shuho Sato

Give My Regards to Black Jack

Ep. 27 The Announcement

Ep. 28 Accomplices

Ep. 29 The Powerless

Ep. 30 Justice Won

Ep. 31 The Protectors

Ep. 32 Contradiction Upon Contradiction

Ep. 33 Defiance Definance

Ep. 34 Little Lost Grownups

Ep. 35 It Starts With One

Ep. 36 Son of a Bitch

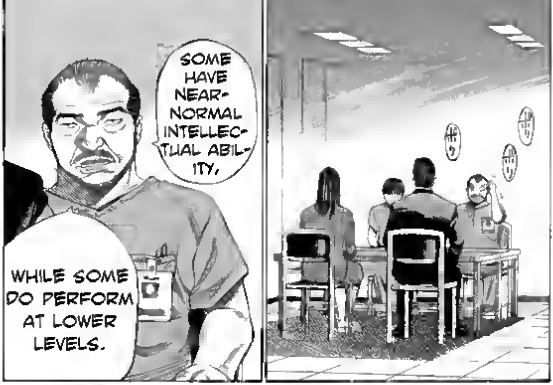
Ep. 37 Sunset

MEDI-
CALLY
SPEAK-
ING,
DOWN
SYNDROME IS
A DISORDER
WHERE THERE
ARE 3 COPIES
OF CHROMO-
SOME 21.

YOU MUST
UNDER-
STAND
THAT THIS
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
FERTILITY
TREATMENTS
OR ANYTHING
INHERITED

ANY COUPLE
CAN HAVE A
CHILD WITH
DOWN
SYNDROME.

#27
The Announcement


SOME HAVE NEAR-NORMAL INTELLECTUAL ABILITY.
WHILE SOME DO PERFORM AT LOWER LEVELS.

IT WAS ONCE BELIEVED THAT THESE CHILDREN DIDN'T LIVE LONG.
BUT THAT'S ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE.
DOWN SYNDROME DOESN'T NECESSARILY IMPLY INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT.

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT.
BUT THERE ARE MANY STILL GOING STRONG AT 30 OR 40.
SOME LEAVE US TOO SOON, UNFORTUNATELY,

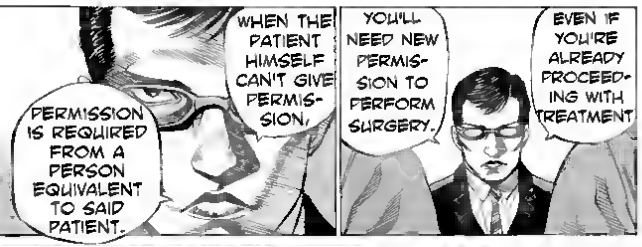
BOTH PARENTS SHOULD PROMPTLY BE INFORMED OF THE DIAGNOSIS TOGETHER.

THE DISORDER MUST BE EXPLAINED IN A WAY
THAT IS ACCURATE, OBJECTIVE, AND MATTER-OF-FACT.

I'VE DONE MY NEO-NATOLOGY HOMEWORK YOU SEE...
I KNOW ALL THIS SONG-AND-DANCE HAS TO BE DONE BY THE BOOK.
SHEE SH...
THAT'S A LAWYER FOR YOU.

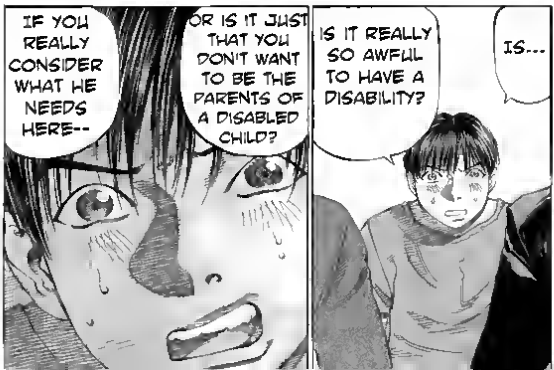
THE YOUNGER BROTHER HAS A DUODENAL BLOCKAGE
BY THE WAY, MR. TANABE,
IT'S A COMPLICATION OF THE DOWN SYNDROME
WITH THE DUODENUM STOPPED UP, HE CAN'T DIGEST MILK.
HE NEEDS SURGERY.
IT'S NOT LIFE OR DEATH JUST YET--
WE CAN ALWAYS GIVE HIM IV NUTRITION.
BUT THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE WEAKER HE'LL GET,
AND EVENTUALLY, HE'LL DIE.

SURGICAL REQUEST FORM
I JUST NEED YOUR SIGNATURE HERE, PLEASE.
BETTER TO OPERATE SOONER THAN LATER.
I REFUSE.


PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FROM A PERSON EQUIVALENT TO SAID PATIENT.
WHEN THE PATIENT HIMSELF CAN'T GIVE PERMISSION,
YOU'LL NEED NEW PERMISSION TO PERFORM SURGERY.
EVEN IF YOU'RE ALREADY PROCEEDING WITH TREATMENT

I'M NOT SIGNING IT.
AS FOR YOUR SURGICAL REQUEST FORM?
PERFORMING SURGERY WITHOUT IT IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE LAW.

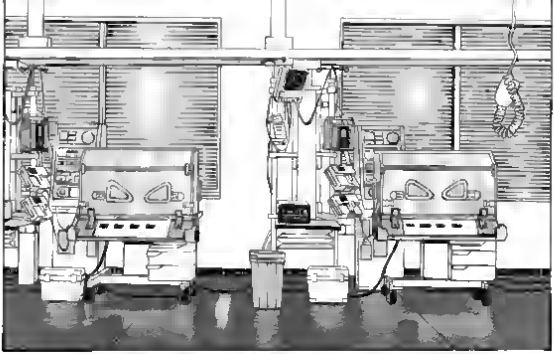
ER... AH...
DOWN SYNDROME ISN'T NECESSARILY A MEDICALLY SERIOUS DISEASE...


IF YOU REALLY CONSIDER WHAT HE NEEDS HERE--
OR IS IT JUST THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE PARENTS OF A DISABLED CHILD?
IS IT REALLY SO AWFUL TO HAVE A DISABILITY?
IS...

KEEP YOUR FEELINGS OUT OF THIS. YOU'RE A DOCTOR.
ENOUGH, SAITO.
I CALLED YOU HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU YOUR YOUNGER TWIN HAS DOWN SYNDROME,
AND THAT HE NEEDS INTESTINAL SURGERY.
AS FAR AS THE OPERATION GOES,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR DECISION NOW.
THINK IT OVER. TAKE YOUR TIME.

WHAT GIVES?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY HARDER TO CONVINCE THEM?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF DOWN KIDS LIVING PERFECTLY HAPPY LIVES!
SO WHAT IF HE TOLD US TO KEEP OUR FEELINGS TO OURSELVES--
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM THAT, AT LEAST!?
WE'RE OUTSIDERS HERE...

EVEN PREEMIES WITH DISABILITIES HAVE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES!
ISN'T IT OUR JOB TO MAKE THE PARENTS REALIZE THAT!?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!
"TURNIN' BIRTHER AND BIRTHED INTO PARENT AND CHILD"...
ISN'T THAT WHAT OUR JOB'S ALL ABOUT?
SO
DOCTORS ARE ROBOTS THAT JUST DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD?
WE'RE OUTSIDERS--IT'S THE SIMPLE TRUTH.
YEAH, YEAH...



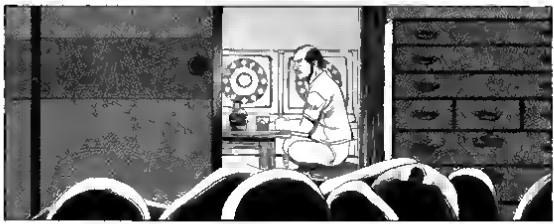
WHO'D WANNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH
A SNOT-NOSED BRAT LIKE YOU?
PFFT... NO WONDER YOU KEEP GETTIN' BOUNCED AROUND THIS PLACE.

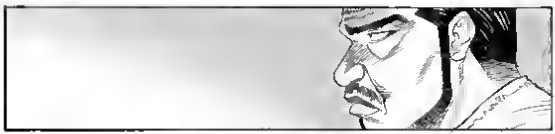
WHY DID YOU TAKE ME IN?
THEN
?
AND WHAT DID THAT MEAN, WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER?
ABOUT NOT GETTING CLOSE WITH THE FAMILY.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF DISTANCE.

WE'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT OUTSIDERS TO THAT FAMILY.
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE WORK, HOW MUCH WE TRY TO PERSUADE 'EM,
I'LL NEVER BE YOU, SEE,
AND YOU'RE NOT ME.
GET SUCKED IN AND WE JUST WIND UP BLIND TO WHAT'S AROUND US.
WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT OUTSIDERS DO.
AND
WE'RE OUTSIDERS.
THAT'S WHY THEY BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

AFTER ALL,
THOSE BABIES' LIVES DEPEND ON US.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.
DR. TAKASAGO,
CAN YOU STAND IN FRONT OF THOSE BABIES AND SAY THAT?

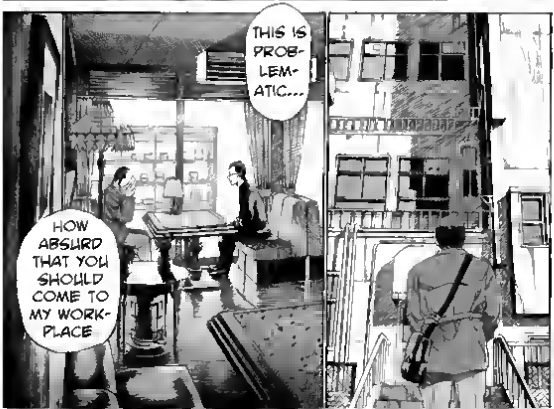
CLINK





can you stand in front of those babies and say that?
Doctor...

KODAN
OTOWA
LAW OFFICE

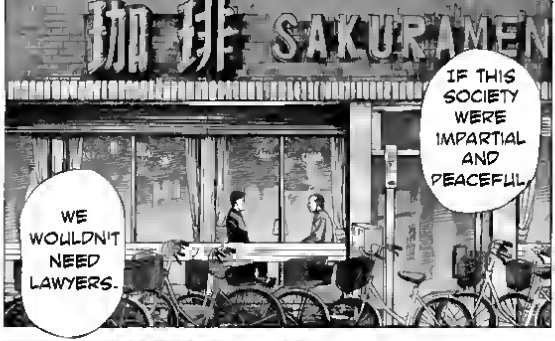

THIS IS PROB-LEM-ATIC...
HOW ABSURD THAT YOU SHOULD COME TO MY WORK-PLACE

WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE TO DO?
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, ON MY WAY TO MY PART-TIME CLINIC JOB.
WELL, YOU SEE,
A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL DOESN'T PAY MUCH.
SHOOT THE BREEZE.
YOU KNOW,
I FELT THE SAME WAY.
I NEVER PEGGED YOU AS THE TYPE TO FORCE YOUR OPINIONS ON OTHERS.
I'M DISAPPOINTED.

I'VE SEEN MANY COURT CASES IN THE COURSE OF MY WORK..
SLURRRRP

PEOPLE ARE HOPE-LESSLY SELFISH.

I MYSELF
KNOW THAT FIRST-HAND...


珈琲 SAKURAMEN
IF THIS SOCIETY WERE IMPARTIAL AND PEACEFUL,
WE WOULDN'T NEED LAWYERS.

BUT THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS HAVE VICTIMS AND VICTIMIZERS,
AND SO THE LEGAL PROFESSION WAS BORN.

IT'S THE SAME WITH DOCTORS, ISN'T IT?
THERE ARE DOCTORS BECAUSE THERE ARE PATIENTS.

DR. TAKA-SAGO...

#28 Accomplices

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.

NO ONE GOES THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT HURTING SOMEONE.
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY, TOO.

AND THIS SOCIETY--IS IT KIND TO VICTIMS?

I THINK IT'S BETTER NOW THAN IT USED TO BE
YOU REALLY THINK SO?

SIMPLY MAKING IT [illegible] DISCRIMINATE AGAINST DISABLED PEOPLE
WHEN MY WIFE LEARNED HER SON HAD DOWN SYNDROME, SHE CRIED
DOESN'T MAKE THE DISCRIMINATION GO AWAY.

ISN'T THAT A FORM OF DISCRIMINATION?
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT HER DOWN-SYNDROME SON
AND HERSELF, HIS PARENT, WERE "PATHETIC".
SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
NO ONE BLAMES HER FOR THAT.
SHE'S ONLY HUMAN.
EXACTLY.
SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.

AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO HARD TO WIPE OUT DISCRIMINATION.

MY SON'S LIFE IN THIS SOCIETY WILL BE AN UNHAPPY ONE, TO SAY THE LEAST.
THAT'S YOUR OWN OPINION.
HAPPY OR UNHAPPY-- THAT'S NOT FOR YOU TO DECIDE.

YOUR BABIES HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS.
YOUR REFUSAL TO OPERATE MAY WELL VIOLATE THOSE RIGHTS.

THE YOUNGER TWIN IS THE ONE WHO NEEDS THAT SURGERY, NOT YOU.
IN THAT SENSE, YOU'RE NOT THE INTERESTED PARTY-- HE IS.

I SEE.
SO IT'S TRUE...
PEOPLE REALLY ARE HOPELESSLY SELFISH AFTER ALL.

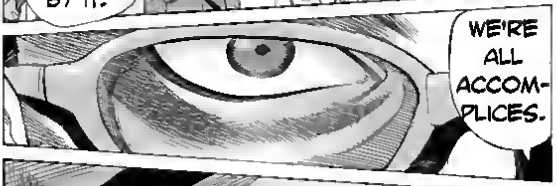
WHY DO YOU THINK SO?

IF EVEN A PARENT AND CHILD CAN ONLY BE SELFISH,
HOW CAN STRANGERS HAVE ANY CONSIDER-ATION FOR ONE AN-OTHER?

INDIF-FERENCE HURTS.

AND IGNORANCE IS A CRIME.

EVEN IF WE DON'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.


WE'RE ALL ACCOM-PLICES.

DON'T YOU AGREE?
NO BICYCLES OR MOPEDS ON TACTILE PAVING

MENU
2F
吉田家

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ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
優先席
COURTESY SEAT
おゆずりください。
PLEASE GIVE UP YOUR SEAT

AND, LIKE, THAT TEACHER? IS, LIKE, SO NASTY?
TOTALLY! HAVE YOU SMELLED HIS PITS? EWWW!
NO WAY! FOR REAL?
ゴゴゴ
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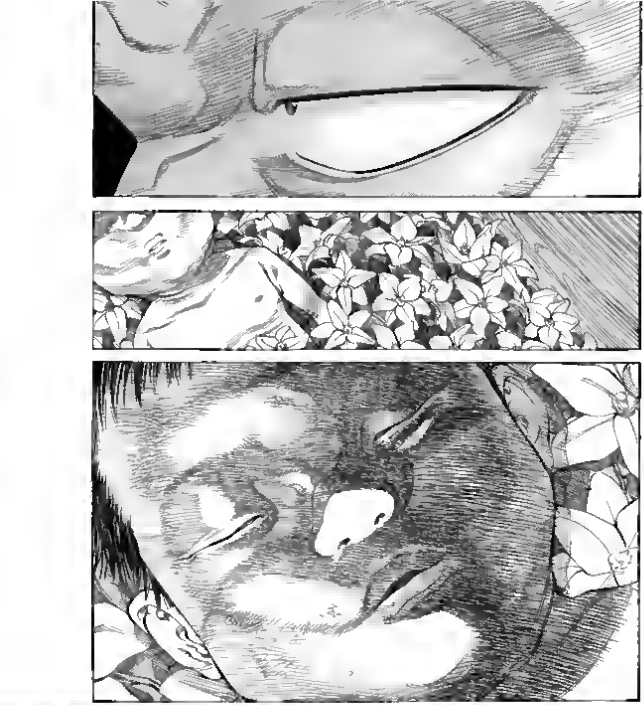
ゴゴゴ


WC
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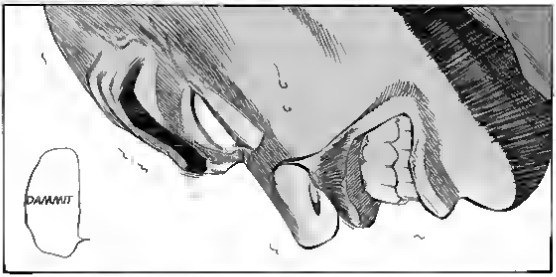
PSSSH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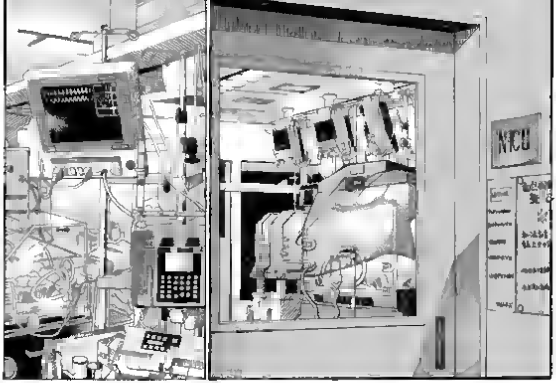
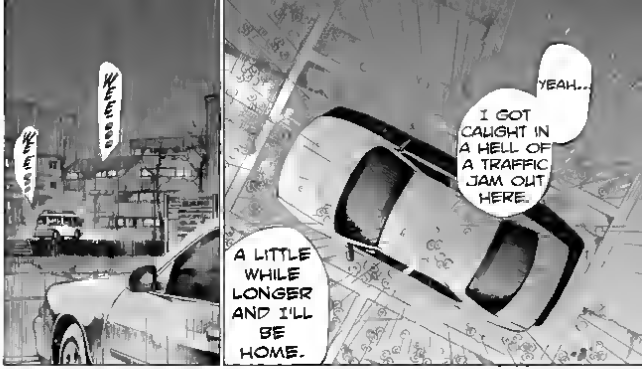

NICU


WEEEEE
WEEEEE
YEAH..
I GOT CAUGHT IN A HELL OF A TRAFFIC JAM OUT HERE.
A LITTLE WHILE LONGER AND I'LL BE HOME.

YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL
HONEY..
YOU'RE LYING, AREN'T YOU.

LATELY I'VE NOTICED...
YOU'VE BEEN COMING HOME LATE EVERY DAY.
BUT YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.

WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU GO ALL THAT WAY WITHOUT SEEING OUR CHILDREN?

ABANDONED BY THIS WORLD OF OURS?
CAN THEY EVER FIND HAPPINESS?
THIS SOCIETY REJECTS THE WEAK.

WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THEM HAPPY
AFTER WE'RE GONE?
WHO'S GOING TO LOVE THEM?
WAIT...
I'M HANGING UP.
JUST ONCE. JUST...SEE THEM ONE TIME.

IF I DO THAT,
THEN I'LL HAVE TO SAY IT, WON'T I?

ONCE I MEET THEM,
I'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE...

HE'S SPITTING UP AGAIN.

HE BRINGS IT RIGHT BACK UP.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH HIS TUMMY...
I WONDER WHY?
THE OLDER ONE'S STOPPED DIGESTING MILK NOW, TOO.

TWINS ARE MYSTERIOUS THINGS.
IF ONE GETS WEAK, THE OTHER ONE DOES, TOO.

#29
The Powerless

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ン
SORRY I'M A LITTLE WET--GOT CAUGHT IN THIS DOWN-POUR.
MAN, WHAT A NIGHT!
I JUST MET WITH THE TWINS' FATHER.

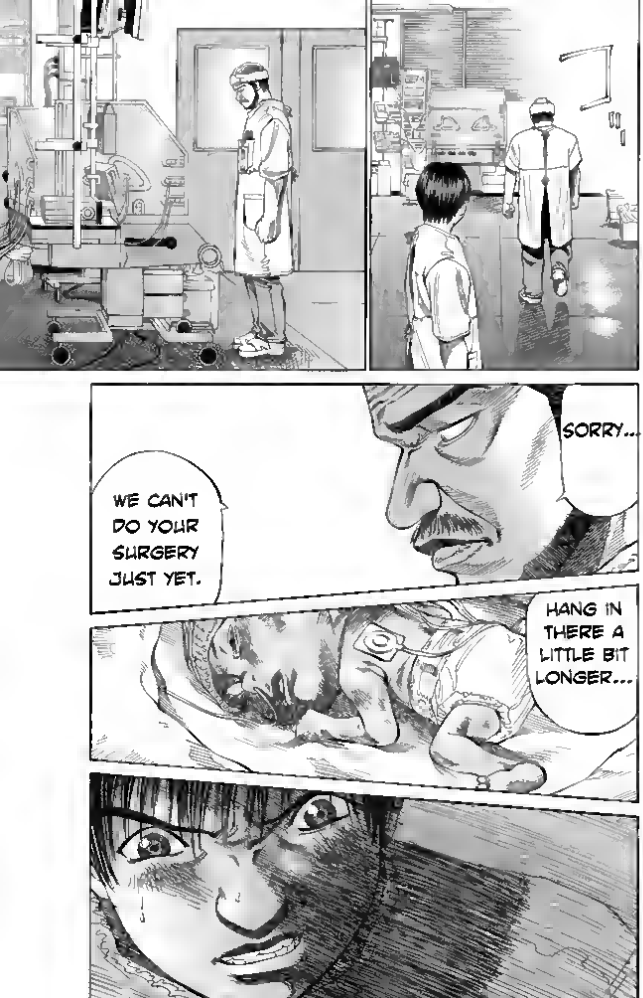
WHAT HAP-PENED?
DID YOU GET THE GO-AHEAD ON THE SURGERY?
SPIP
OR...
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T.

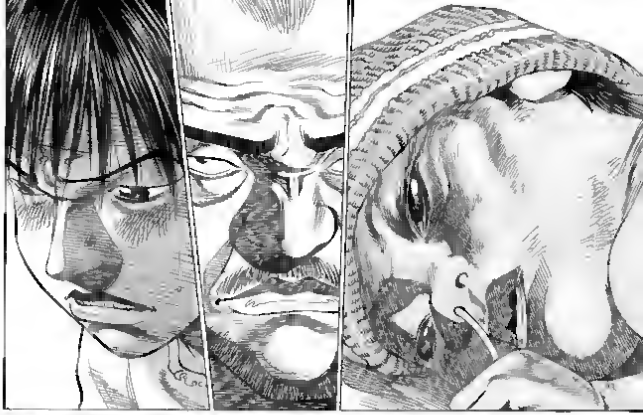
IT HAPPENS.

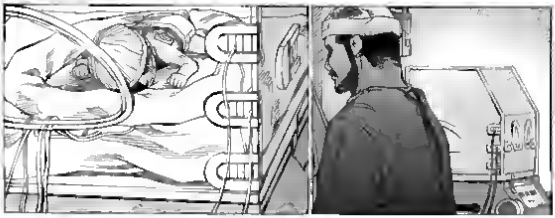
WAIT--
SO NOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

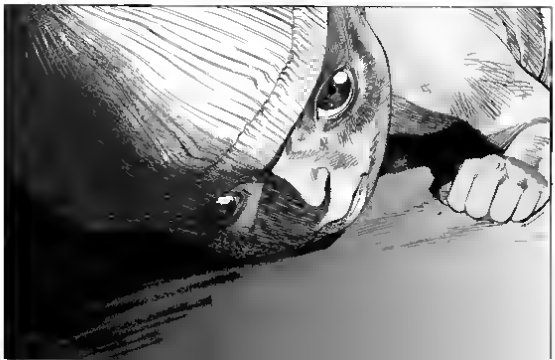
LIKE I SAID, THE LITTLE ONE WILL KEEP LOSING STRENGTH AND EVENTUALLY DIE.
BUT WITHOUT A SIGNATURE ON THAT SURGICAL REQUEST FORM, OUR HANDS ARE TIED.
SO WE JUST LET HIM DIE?
DON'T LIKE IT? SUE ME.
I MEAN, DOESN'T THAT MAKE US MURDER-ERS?
HOW CAN THAT BE ACCEPT-ABLE?

AND IF WE'RE GOIN' THAT FAR,
PLENTY OF NEONATOLO-GISTS WOULD BE ON TRIAL NATIONWIDE.

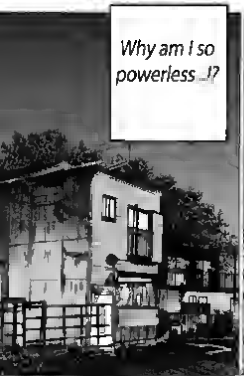

SORRY...
WE CAN'T DO YOUR SURGERY JUST YET.
HANG IN THERE A LITTLE BIT LONGER...



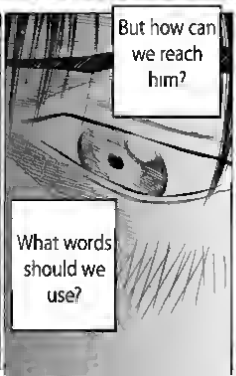




We'll have to convince the father


Why am I so powerless...!?

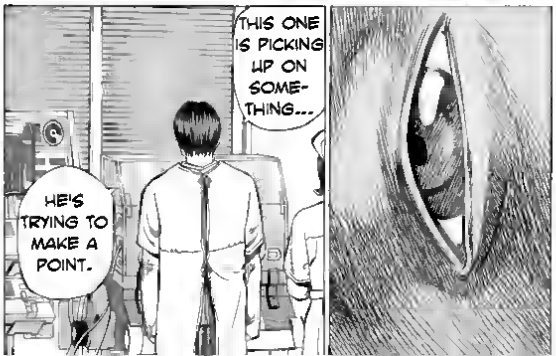
Is that all I have?
Words?


But how can we reach him?
What words should we use?

I want power--
The strength to tear everything down
power to change this moment
Being strong means being wrong.

HE'S SPIT TING UP HIS MILK AGAIN.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, THE OLDER ONE WILL VASTE AWAY FIRST.

TWINS DON'T NEED TO SHARE EV-ERYTHING.
COME ON, YOU TWO.


THIS ONE IS PICKING UP ON SOME-THING...
HE'S TRYING TO MAKE A POINT.

HE HATES US.
"WHY AREN'T YOU DOING ANYTHING?"

HE CAN'T TALK, SO
HE PROTESTS IN HIS OWN WAY.

I won't eat
DR. SAITO,
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

If my brother's
not eating,

neither
am I.

誠同病院

IF I COULD HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...
THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY NEED TO ASK YOU.
I'M SAITO, THE EIROKU UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL INTERN WHO HAD BEEN WORKING PART-TIME AT YOUR HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE LOOKING DOWNRIGHT DOCTORAL THESE DAYS.
TO THINK YOU ONCE CRIED IN THE CORNER OF A DYING PATIENT'S ROOM...

YES, SIR...
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GO AHEAD WITH THAT BABY'S SURGERY.
IN OTHER WORDS,

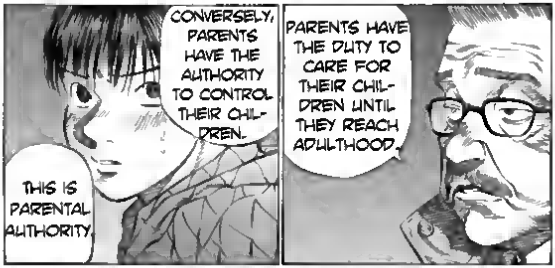
AND WHY WOULD YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK ME THAT?

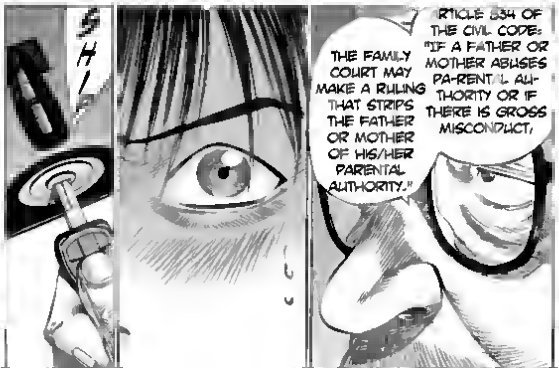
I GUESS MAYBE I NEED TO DO IT IRRATIONALLY.
IF I CAN'T SOLVE THIS RATIONALLY

THEN IT'S SIMPLE:
No, sir...
AND I'M IRRATIONAL, IS THAT IT?
YOU NEED A WEAPON.
AND YOU PRESS THAT BUTTON...
THE ULTIMATE WEAPON THAT WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING.
YOU TAKE AWAY THEIR PARENTAL RIGHTS.

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY
WE CAN FILE FOR THAT
IN COURT.

TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL AUTHORITY?


CONVERSELY, PARENTS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CONTROL THEIR CHILDREN.
PARENTS HAVE THE DUTY TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN UNTIL THEY REACH ADULTHOOD.
THIS IS PARENTAL AUTHORITY.


SHI
ARTICLE 834 OF THE CIVIL CODE: "IF A FATHER OR MOTHER ABUSES PARENTAL AUTHORITY OR IF THERE IS GROSS MISCONDUCT,
THE FAMILY COURT MAY MAKE A RULING THAT STRIPS THE FATHER OR MOTHER OF HIS/HER PARENTAL AUTHORITY."

TERRIBLE PARENTS WHO AREN'T QUALIFIED TO HAVE CHILDREN
CAN BE STRIPPED OF THEIR PARENTAL AUTHORITY.
#30
Justice Won

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

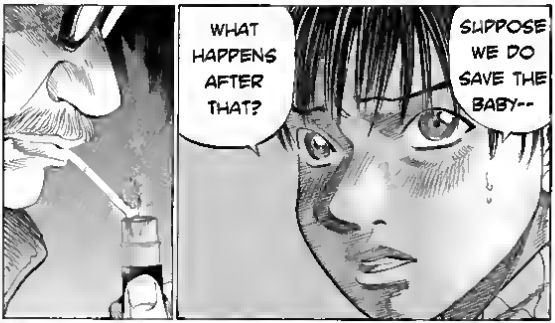
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY...
THE LAW'S MEANT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM BAD PARENTS.
FOR A DRIVE.

IF YOU GO DOWN THAT ROAD,
YOU CAN PERFORM THE SURGERY EVEN WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

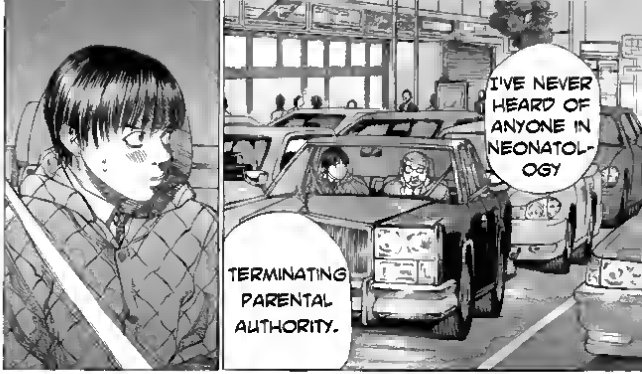
TERMINATING PARENTAL AUTHORITY
MEANS SAVING THE CHILD'S LIFE.

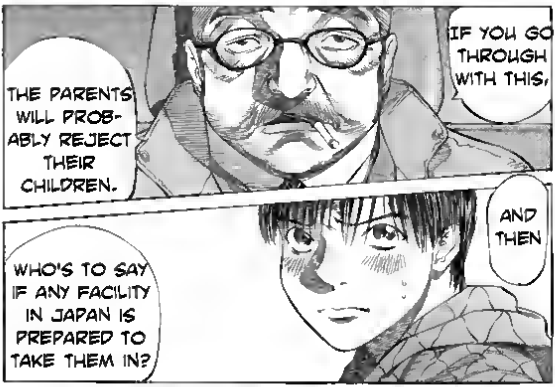
I SUPPOSE YOU SHOULD STRIP THEIR RIGHTS AND OPERATE.
IF YOU CAN'T BRING THE PARENTS AROUND,

UM...
THEN WHAT HAPPENS?


WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?
SUPPOSE WE DO SAVE THE BABY--

GOOD QUES-TION.


I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE IN NEONATOLOGY
TERMINATING PARENTAL AUTHORITY.

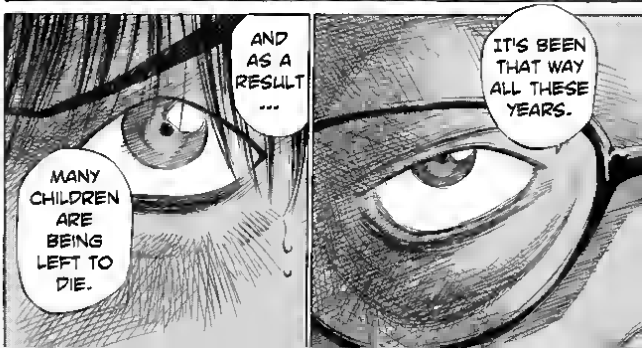

IF YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS,
THE PARENTS WILL PROBABLY REJECT THEIR CHILDREN.
AND THEN
WHO'S TO SAY IF ANY FACILITY IN JAPAN IS PREPARED TO TAKE THEM IN?

TO...TO!
TO...TO!!

EVEN IF WE SAVE HIM,
THERE'S NO ONE TO RAISE HIM UP RIGHT.
THERE'S NO PRECEDENT
BECAUSE IT ISN'T A REALISTIC OPTION.
THE CASE BEFORE YOU NOW ISN'T UNUSUAL.
FOR DECADES WE'VE BEEN ARGUING
OVER WHETHER TO TERMINATE PARENTAL AUTHORITY.
THEN WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ACTUALLY DO IT?

ADULTS HAVE NO WEAPONS.

THEY KNOW FULL WELL
THAT IF THEY DID, THEY'D HAVE TO FIGHT.


AND AS A RESULT ...
IT'S BEEN THAT WAY ALL THESE YEARS.
MANY CHILDREN ARE BEING LEFT TO DIE.

YOU SHOULD BE RAISING THAT BOY.
IF YOU SAVE HIM, THERE'S NO ONE TO RAISE HIM?
AND IF YOU CAN'T,
THEN YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THOSE PARENTS OF HIS.
HUH?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WERE TO PLOW INTO THE CROWD AT TOP SPEED?
THERE'S A SHOPPING DISTRICT AROUND THIS CORNER.
THE STREETS ARE SO PACKED WITH PEOPLE, YOU CAN'T DRIVE AN INCH.

AAAH!

KARAOKE TONIGHT?
KARAOKE TONIGHT?
VRR
VRR
VRR
PEOPLE WOULD MOVE OUT OF THE WAY.
IF A CAR CAME CRASHING THROUGH,
PANT
PANT

HE'S CRAZY.

RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN, SAITO...

L-LET'S GO TO FAMILY COURT
AND TERMINATE THE TANABES' PARENTAL AUTHORITY!

YOU'RE SHAK-ING.
IF YOU TALK THE TALK, YOU BETTER BE READY TO WALK THE WALK.
SHEE SH...
TERMINATE PARENTAL AUTHORITY" --WHERE'D YOU PICK THAT UP, ANYWAY?

ONLY ONES WHO CAN TERMINATE PARENTAL AUTHORITY ARE RELATIVES OR THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.
IT'S NO USE.
THE COURTS'D NEVER HANDLE SUCH A RIDICULOUS CASE, ANYWAY.
FIRST OF ALL, WHO'D RAISE HIM?

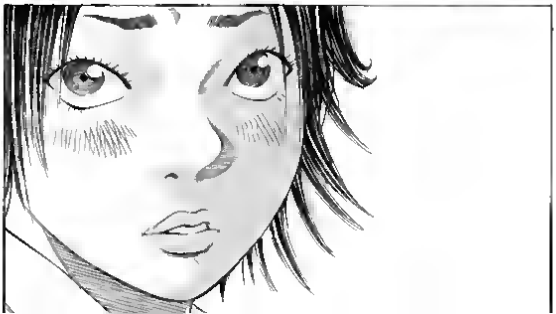
I WOULD

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYIN' TO WORK THIS HALF TO DEATH...
ME, I GNAWED THIS BONE DRY DECADES AGO.
CUT THAT SHIT OUT.
IF YOU KNEW HOW I SUFFERED TO COME TO THIS REALIZATION...
THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN RAISE A CHILD ARE ITS PARENTS!
E-even so...
If that child dies, isn't it murder?
DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE RIGHT.

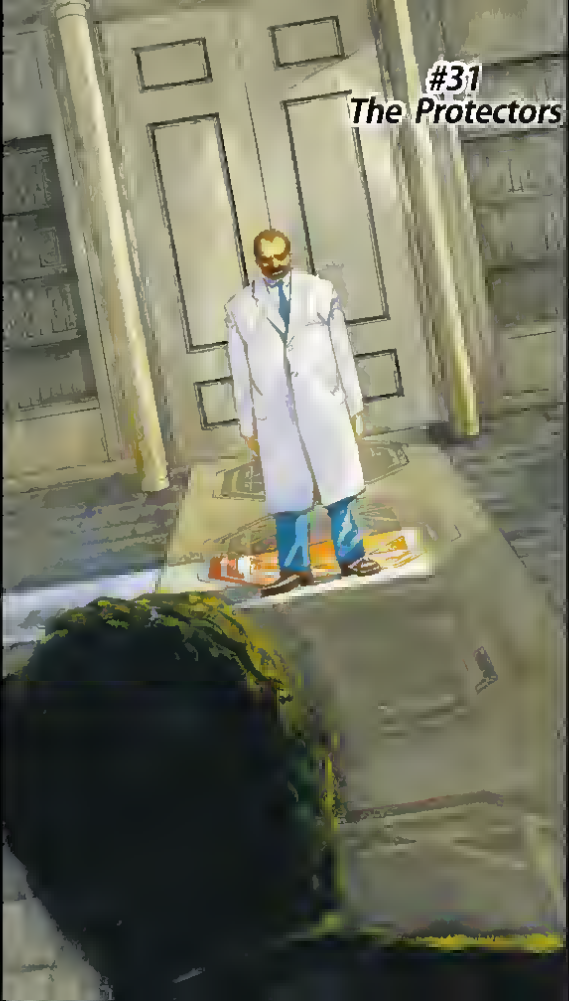
THEN WHO KILLED HIM?
HIS PAR-ENTS?
HIS DOC-TORS?
YOU!

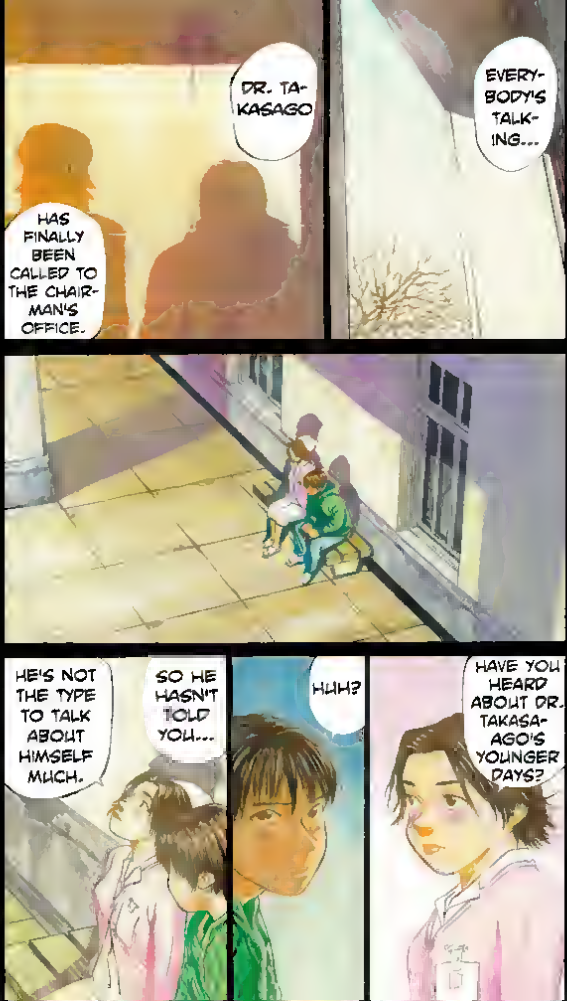
I don't know
But
it's murder
Still...
I have no resolve,
and I'm not crazy

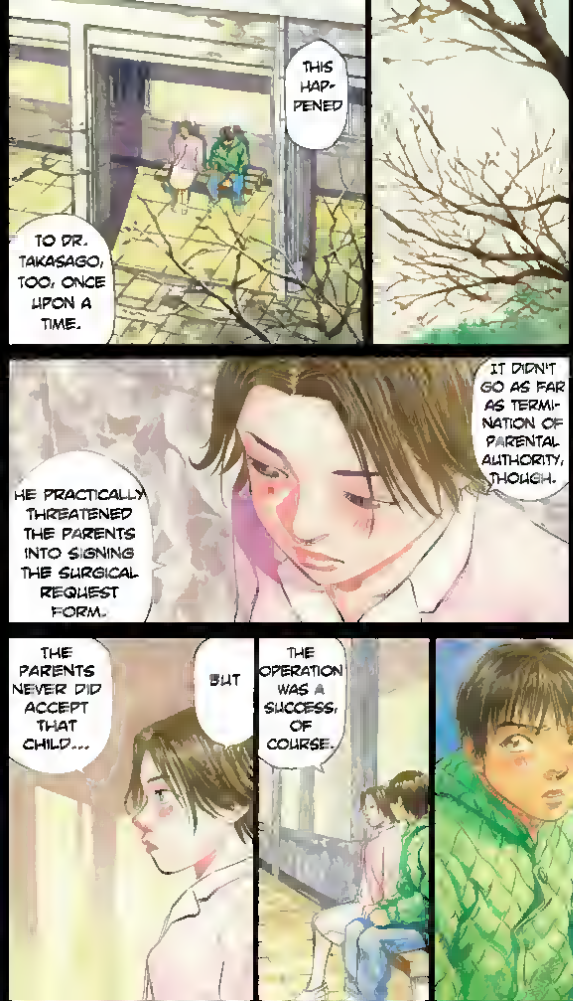
STILL, I CAN'T JUST LET THIS GO BY...



DID YOU HEAR?
NOW THAT INTERN'S GOING ON ABOUT TERMINATING PARENTAL AUTHORITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL EVER AMOUNT
HE'S JUST AN IDIOT.
MAN... HERE WE'VE HAD TO PUT UP WITH A LOT OF CRAP--
AND THEY LET THAT INTERN DO WHATEVER HE LIKES!
YOU'RE THE IDIOTS.
IF YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE NERVE TO CONFRONT ANYONE,
YOU DON'T GET TO SAY A DAMN THING.


#31
The Protectors

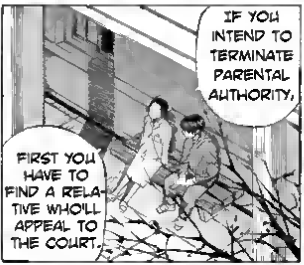

DR. TAKASAGO
HAS FINALLY BEEN CALLED TO THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE.
EVERYBODY'S TALKING...
HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO TALK ABOUT HIMSELF MUCH.
SO HE HASN'T TOLD YOU...
HUH?
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT DR. TAKASAGO'S YOUNGER DAYS?

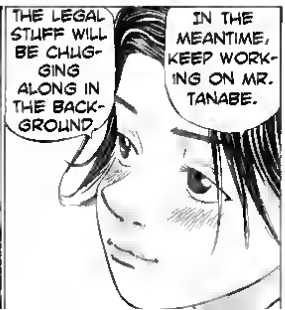

TO DR. TAKASAGO, TOO, ONCE UPON A TIME.
THIS HAP-PENED
HE PRACTICALLY THREATENED THE PARENTS INTO SIGNING THE SURGICAL REQUEST FORM.
IT DIDN'T GO AS FAR AS TERMI-NATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY, THOUGH.
THE PARENTS NEVER DID ACCEPT THAT CHILD...
BUT
THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS, OF COURSE.

THE BOY DIED A YEAR LATER.
THEY SAY HE WAS NO BIGGER THAN A 4-MONTH-OLD INFANT.
AND AT A FULL YEAR OLD, TOO...
IS IT WRONG, WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO?

THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS...

THEN THAT RELATIVE WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO THE SURGERY.


IF YOU INTEND TO TERMINATE PARENTAL AUTHORITY,
FIRST YOU HAVE TO FIND A RELATIVE WHO'LL APPEAL TO THE COURT.


THE LEGAL STUFF WILL BE CHUGGING ALONG IN THE BACKGROUND.
IN THE MEANTIME, KEEP WORKING ON MR. TANABE.

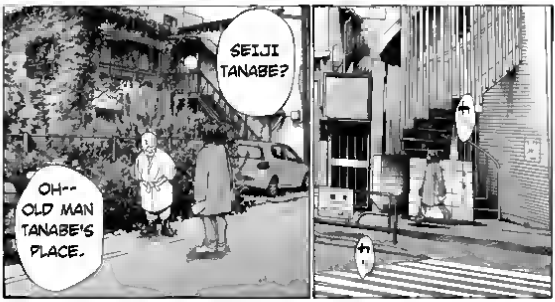
AND I...
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, TOO.
YOU?
BUT WHY YOU?

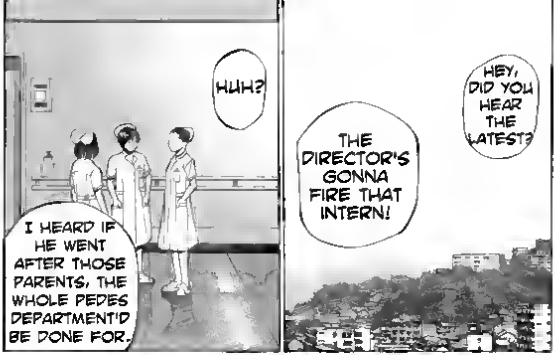
I SEE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND US NURSES EITHER...
WHY ME?

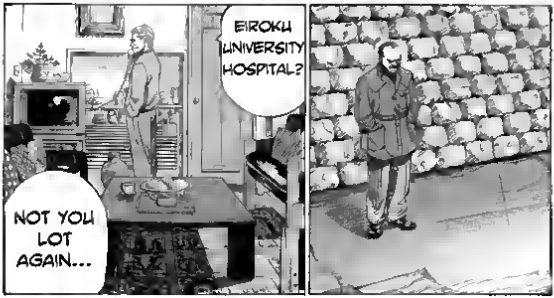
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE NICU NURSES DEAL WITH YOU DOCTORS...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE'RE STAND-INS FOR THESE BABIES' MOTHERS...
MAYBE IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING,
BUT YOU DOCTORS HAVE THE LAST WORD.
THEY REMIND US THAT THE DOCTORS MAKE THE FINAL CALL.
WE FIGHT TO HOLD OURSELVES BACK.
SO WE TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
SO IT'S NOT JUST YOU...

IT'S PLENTY HARD FOR US, TOO.
SEEING CHILDREN BE KILLED LIKE THAT...

WHAT'S WITH HIM, I WONDER?
HE WAS HERE WHEN WE CAME BY EARLIER


SEIJI TANABE?
OH-- OLD MAN TANABE'S PLACE.

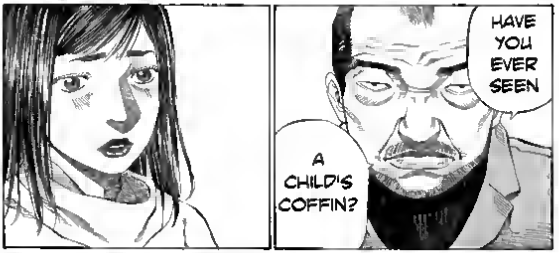

HUH?
I HEARD IF HE WENT AFTER THOSE PARENTS, THE WHOLE PEDES DEPARTMENT'D BE DONE FOR.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?
THE DIRECTOR'S GONNA FIRE THAT INTERN!

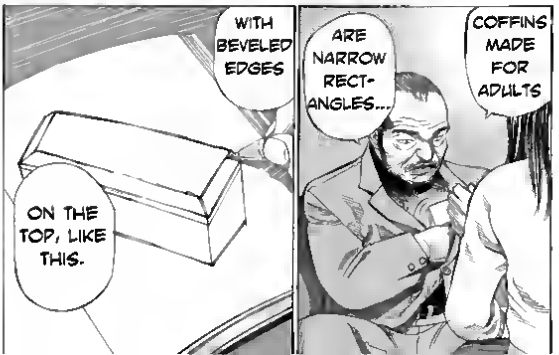

EIROKU UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL?
NOT YOU LOT AGAIN...

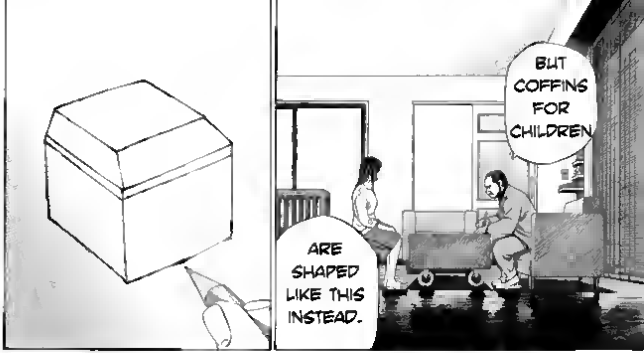
"I'LL BE DAMNED IF YOU CAN UNDER-STAND HOW WE FEEL!"
"DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG!"

CLICK

MY HUS-
BAND'S
OUT.
PLEASE,
COME
IN.

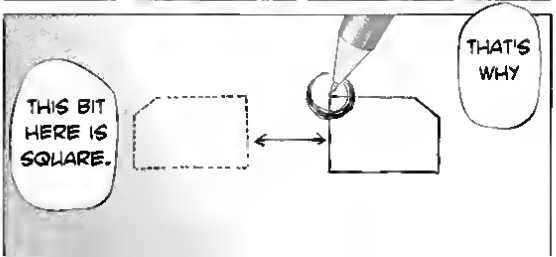

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
A CHILD'S COFFIN?


WITH BEVELED EDGES
ON THE TOP, LIKE THIS.
ARE NARROW RECT-ANGLES...
COFFINS MADE FOR ADULTS


BUT COFFINS FOR CHILDREN
ARE SHAPED LIKE THIS INSTEAD.

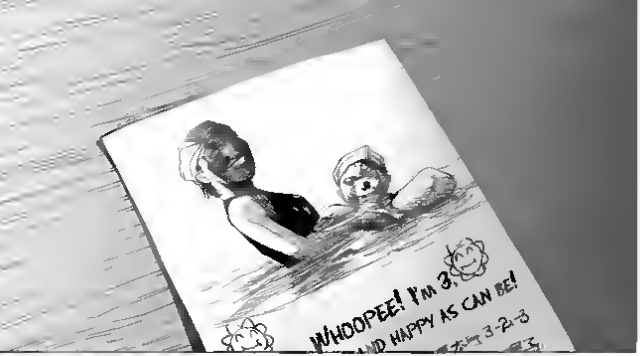
COFFINS EXPRESSLY FOR CHIL-DREN.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE MAKES

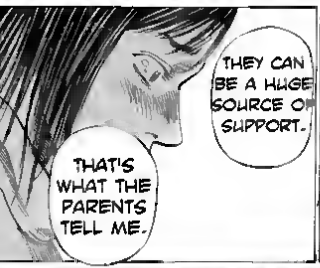
THEY TAKE AN ADULT COFFIN
AND CUT IT IN HALF.


THAT'S WHY
THIS BIT HERE IS SQUARE.

IT'S SQUARE RIGHT HERE.
AFTER-WARD, THE PARENTS REJECTED THE CHILD
AND HE PASSED AWAY A YEAR LATER.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I FORCED A PARENT OF A PREEMIE TO SIGN A SURGICAL REQUEST
WE WENT AHEAD WITH THE OPERA-TION.
THE ONLY TIME
I WENT TO ONE OF THEIR FUNER-ALS.
BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME...
AS A NEO-NATOLOGIST I'D SEEN MORE THAN MY SHARE OF BABIES DIE,

FOR TODAY, JUST LOOK AT THESE.
THEY'RE POSTCARDS FROM NICU GRADUATES AND THEIR PARENTS.
NOT TO REPEAT MYSELF.
BUT I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU THE OBJECTIVE FACTS.
THUD
ON OCTOBER 1, HE WEIGHED 22 LBS.--THAT'S THE 80TH PERCENTILE.
HE'S BEEN GOING TO THE POOL ONCE A WEEK FOR A YEAR NOW.
HE HAS DOWN SYNDROME, LIKE YOUR SON.
THIS BOY LEFT THE NICU 2 YEARS AGO.


WHOOPEE! I'M 3,
AND HAPPY AS CAN BE!


THEY CAN BE A HUGE SOURCE OF SUPPORT.
THAT'S WHAT THE PARENTS TELL ME.

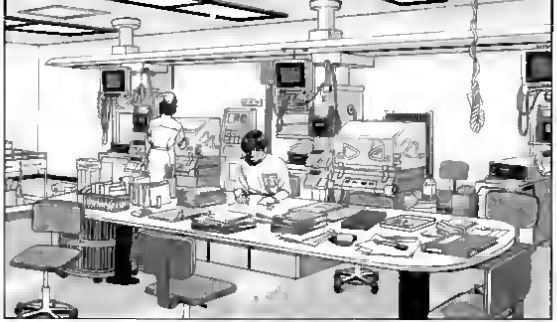
THESE PARENTS WERE TERRIBLY WORRIED AT THE TIME, TOO...
BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF PARENTS' ORGANIZATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP GROUPS FOR DOWN SYNDROME.

AND THIS CHILD HAD A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT.
HE'D BEEN AT DEATH'S DOOR SO OFTEN... NOW HE'S 6.

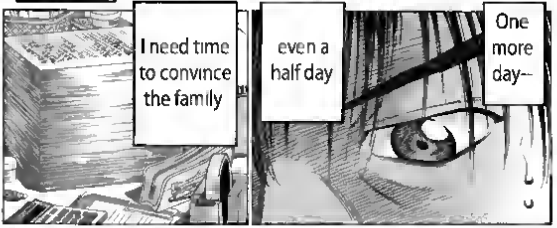
THIS BOY HERE WAS BORN WITHOUT ARMS.
HE HAD A REALLY EXPRESSIVE FACE. THE NICU NURSES CALLED HIM "LI'L ROLY-POLY".

THIS BOY HAD AN INTESTINAL BLOCKAGE.
WHEN HE FARTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER HIS SURGERY, THE WHOLE STAFF THREW A PARTY.
THIS GIRL HAD CEREBRAL PALSY.
SHE TURNED 4, LEARNED TO WALK, AND IS NOW ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL.
BUT YOU SEE ALL THE POST-CARDS WE GET...
ARE THESE CHILDREN HAPPY RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY.

THAT, TOO,
IS AN INDIS-PUTABLE FACT.



No good
We're out of time.


I need time to convince the family
even a half day
One more day--

YES... IF I COULD JUST SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR SON...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO KEEP CALLING.

#32 Contradiction Upon Contradiction

MY FATHER JUST CALLED ME AT THE OFFICE.
IT SEEMS ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS HAS BEEN SNEAKING AROUND BEHIND THE SCENES..

WHAT EXACTLY CAN BE CONSIDERED OBJECTIVE IN ALL THIS?
YOU COME HERE LATE AT NIGHT, WHEN I'M OUT, AND TRY TO BRAINWASH MY WIFE...

I REALLY JUST WANT TO DO YOUR SON'S SURGERY.
YES.
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT.

THAT'S BE-CAUSE
I'M A DOCTOR.

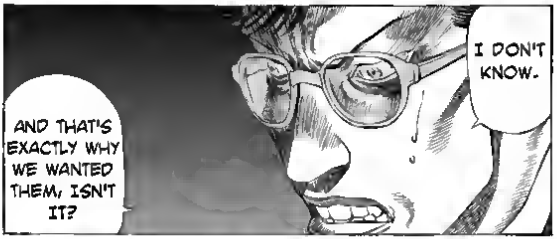
MULTIPLE PREGNANCY MEANS A HIGHER PROBABILITY OF PREMATURE BIRTH.
THE EARLIER THE DELIVERY, THE GREATER THE RISK OF DISABILITY.
UNDERGOING FERTILITY TREATMENTS LIKE IVF
LEAD TO A GREATER CHANCE OF MULTIPLE PREGNANCY: TWINS, TRIPLETS.
I CAN STILL GO TO COURT, YOU KNOW.
NO ONE AT THE HOSPITAL EVER TOLD US THAT--EVER!
THEY'RE NEGLECTING THEIR DUTY OF EXPLANATION!
IN OTHER WORDS, UNDERGOING FERTILITY TREATMENTS
INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES.

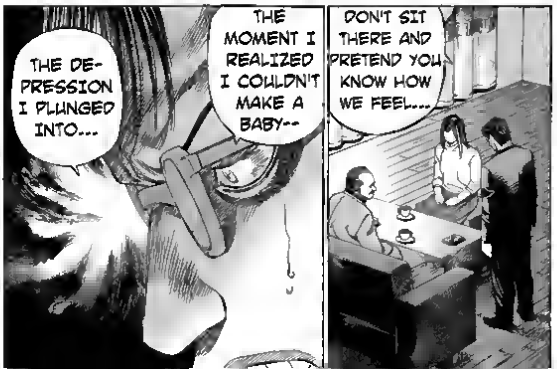
IVF IS 15 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A MULTIPLE PREGNANCY.
I'M SURE OBSTETRICIANS WOULD SHY AWAY FROM SHARING THAT FACT.
15 TIMES.
BUT, MR. TANABE...
"DISABILITY" IS THE WRONG WORD!
IF YOU HAVE MUSICAL TALENT, IS THAT A DISABILITY?
HAVING NO ARMS OR LEGS--IS THAT A DISABILITY?
HOW ABOUT IF YOU CAN RUN THE 100-METER IN 10 SECONDS?
BEING BLIND--IS THAT A DISABILITY?

IF "DISABILITY" IS THE ONLY THING WE EVER CALL IT, THAT'S ALL IT CAN EVER BE.
IT'S "INDIVIDUALITY".
THAT'S A BIT IDEALISTIC.
コチ
コチ
コチ
PARENTS COULD WANT A MUSICAL CHILD,
BUT NO PARENT WANTS A CHILD WITH NO HANDS.
DISABILITY IS DISABILITY, HOWEVER YOU SLICE IT.
IT SURE AS HELL ISN'T INDIVIDUALITY!

NO...
YOU'RE WRONG!
THIS IS POINT-LESS!
THEN TELL ME SOME-THING:
THE CHILDREN YOU WANTED BADLY ENOUGH TO UNDERGO FERTILITY TREAT-MENTS...
WHAT ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

WHAT ARE THEY, ANYWAY?


I DON'T KNOW.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE WANTED THEM, ISN'T IT?

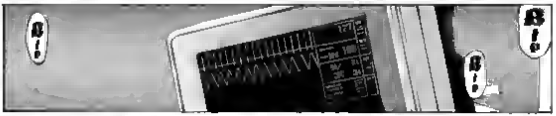

THE DE-PRESSION I PLUNGED INTO...
THE MOMENT I REALIZED I COULDN'T MAKE A BABY--
DON'T SIT THERE AND PRETEND YOU KNOW HOW WE FEEL...

SO YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE THROUGH IT AFTER ALL?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FERTILITY TREATMENTS, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP ON BEING A FATHER!
NO! WRONG!
!!!

WAAA

What's wrong...?

Why won't he answer me today?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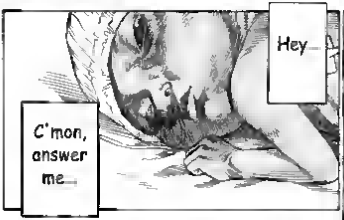

Hey...
C'mon, answer me...

Sure was fun,
huh, big brother...?
We sure had some fun
before we came here...
Pip
Pip
Pip
Pippip

Don't you go anywhere...
Come back...
I'll give you my strength...
I...
So, please--
stay here!

THAT DISCRIMINATION CONTINUED
THROUGHOUT 4 YEARS OF FERTILITY TREATMENTS.
THEY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST US.

It was...
IT WAS SO HEARTLESS...

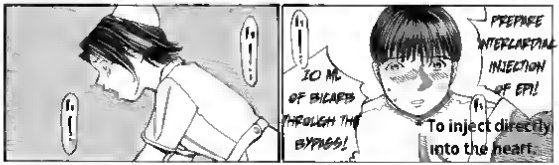
HERE YOU ARE TRYING TO KILL YOUR OWN CHILD.
DON'T I KNOW IT.
This society doesn't reach out to the weak.
I.

I love those children--
more than anything in the world!

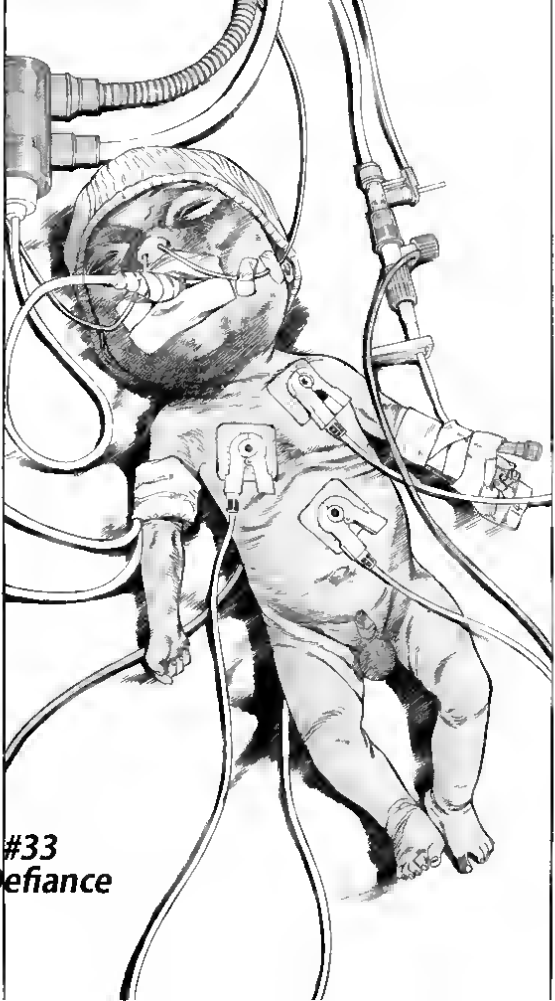
peeeeep

IS THE TRACH READY YET?
START CARDIAC MASSAGE!
HURRY!

OUTTA THE WAY, INTERN!


!!
!!
!!
10 ML OF EPICARD THROUGH THE BYPASS!
PREPARE INTERCARDIAL INJECTION OF EPI!
* To inject directly into the heart

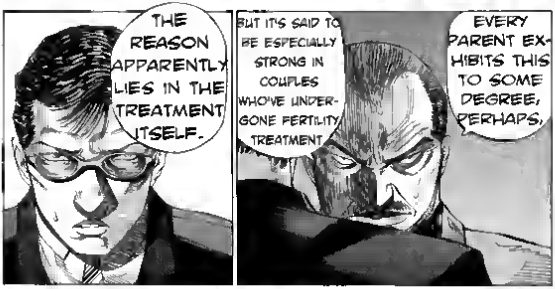
!!
WAS BREATHE.
ALL I COULD DO
!!



#33
Defiance

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF
"PERFECT-BABYISM"?

PUT SIMPLY, THIS DESIRE
IS A PARENT'S WISH FOR A HEALTHY, SMART BABY WITH NO PHYSICAL DEFECTS.


THE REASON APPARENTLY LIES IN THE TREATMENT ITSELF.
BUT IT'S SAID TO BE ESPECIALLY STRONG IN COUPLES WHO'VE UNDERGONE FERTILITY TREATMENT.
EVERY PARENT EXHIBITS THIS TO SOME DEGREE, PERHAPS.

THE THINKING THAT GIVES RISE TO DISCRIMINATION
IT'S INCORRECT
THE PARENTS ARE GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MAKE A CHILD
AND THEY WANT AN EXCEPTIONAL RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT.

MR. TANABE...
I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON.

DON'T YOU...
DON'T YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF IMPERFECT?

AND IF YOU'RE IM PERFECT.
YOU SEEK PERFECTION.

DON'T YOU THINK
THAT'S WRONG?
PEOPLE AREN'T PERFECT OR IMPERFECT
IF YOU WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY SOCIETY,
THERE'S NO NEED TO SURRENDER TO THAT SOCIETY.
MR. TANABE.
FIRST ACCEPT YOURSELF.

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT,
YOU CAN ACCEPT ANY CHILD THAT COMES ALONG.
AND THOSE CHILDREN OF YOURS
WILL HAVE BRIGHT FUTURES INDEED...

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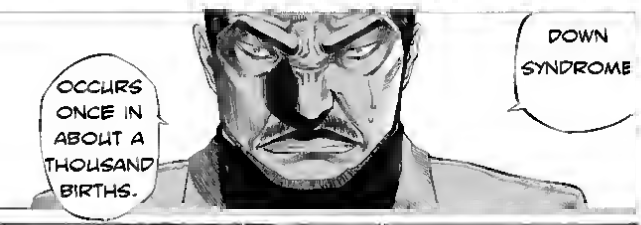
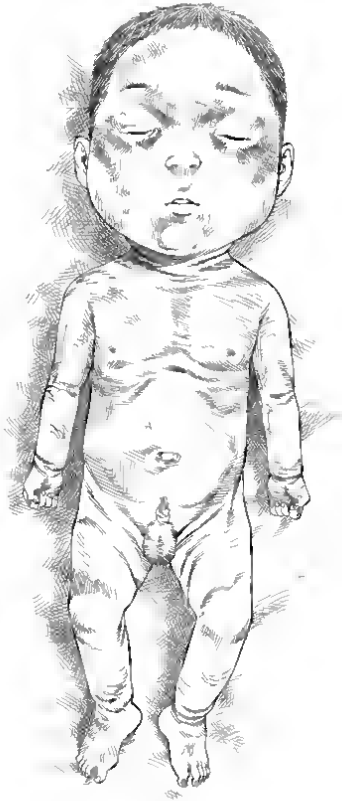
ハッ
ハッ

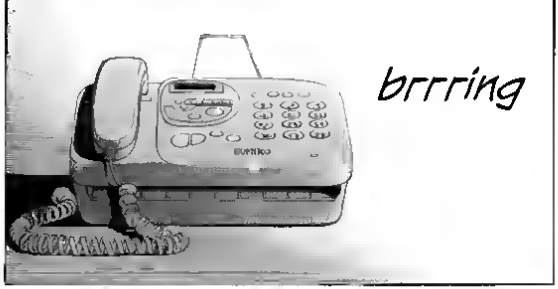
C'mon, Dr. Takasago--
pick up!


DOWN SYNDROME
OCCURS ONCE IN ABOUT A THOUSAND BIRTHS.

IF THAT ONE IN A THOUSAND WAS BORN TO YOU TWO,
I'M NOT A RELIGIOUS MAN,
BUT
WELL, MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THAT AS WELL.
I BELIEVE THIS MUCH.

YOU CAN RAISE THIS CHILD!
THAT'S WHY HE CAME TO YOU--TO YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE!

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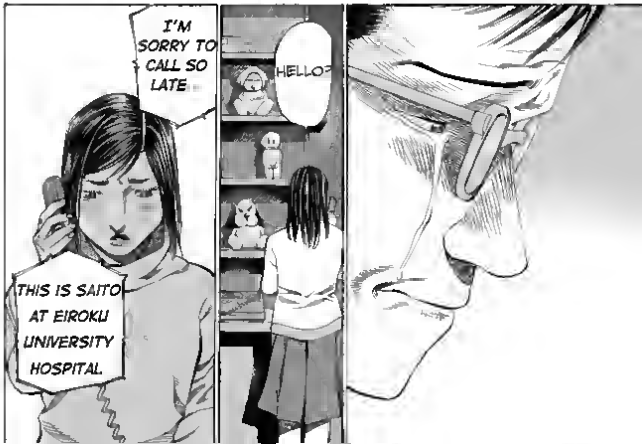
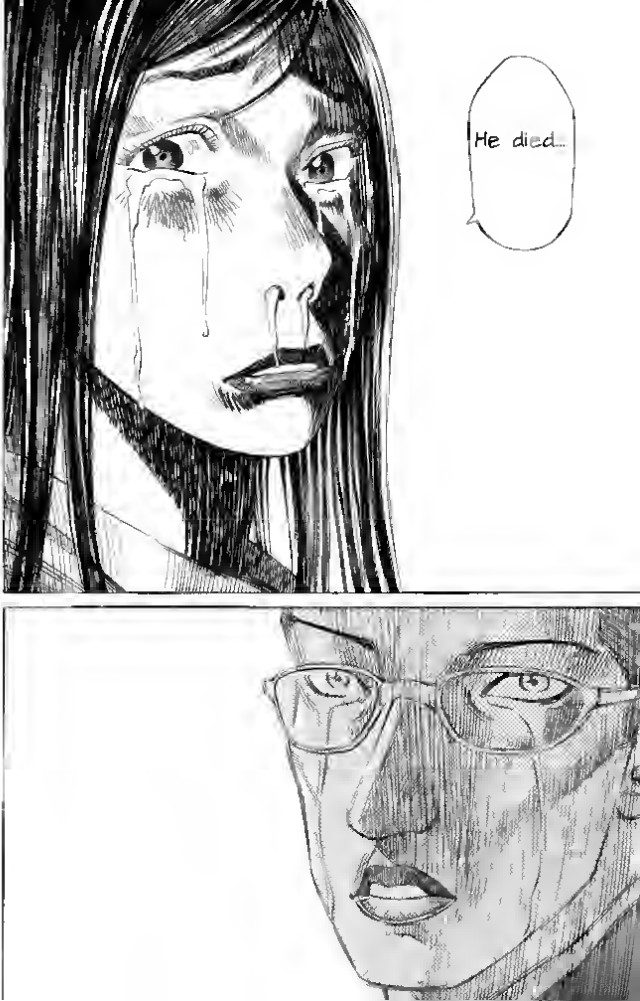

I'M SORRY TO CALL SO LATE...
HELLO?
THIS IS SAITO AT EIROKU UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

He died ?

Dear
our older son d--


He died...

TICK
TICK
ACK

DR. TAKA-SAGO.

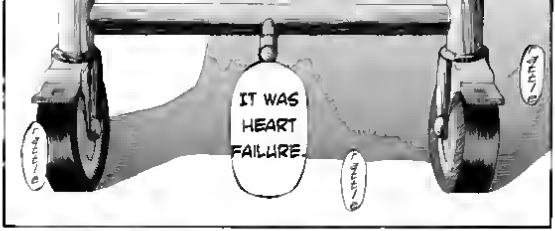
YOU BELIEVED ME.

AND IT'S NOT THAT I HATE
PEOPLE LIKE YOU---

WE'LL COME BY TO PICK UP THE BODY.
TOMOR-ROW
STILL,
YOURS IS A SENTIMENTAL ARGUMENT TAINTED BY SUBJECTIVITY

I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE KILLED OFF MY SELF--

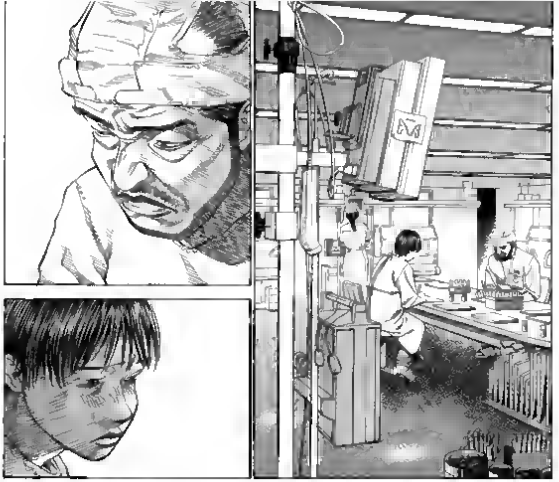
I'LL NEVER SIGN THAT SURGICAL CONSENT FORM.


IT WAS HEART FAILURE.

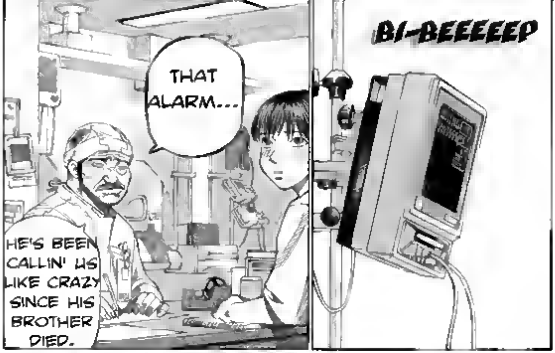
I CAN'T BE MORE SPECIFIC WITHOUT AN AUTOPSY...

WE'D LIKE TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

#34
Little Lost Grownups

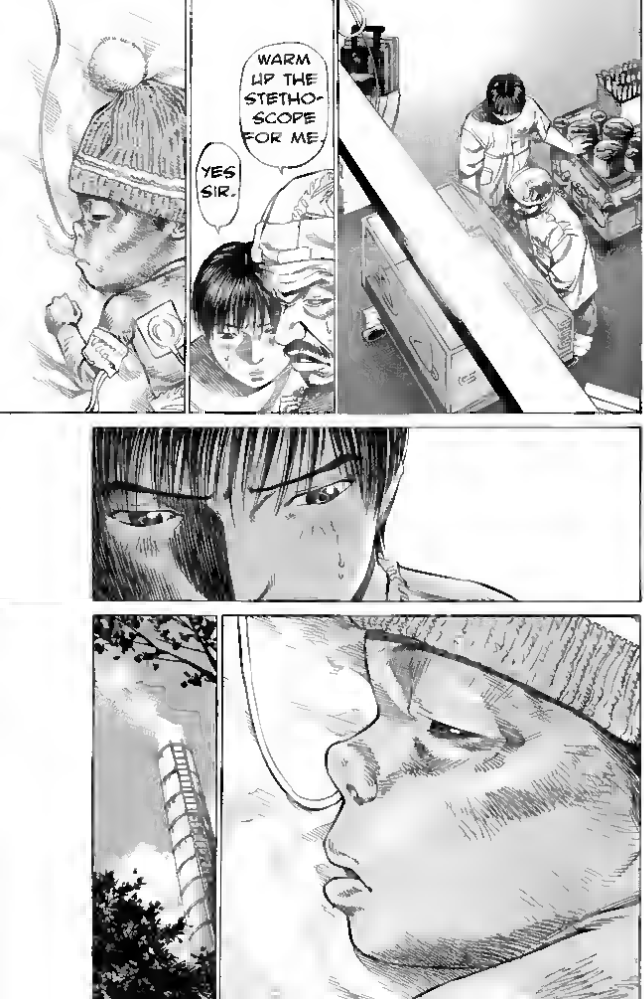


SO, SAITO.
YOU THINKIN' OF BECOMIN' A NEONATOLOGIST?


THAT ALARM...
BI-BEEEEEP
HE'S BEEN CALLIN' US LIKE CRAZY SINCE HIS BROTHER DIED.

?
?

...IS THINKIN' ABOUT QUITTIN'.
ALL I BEEN DOIN' THESE PAST 10 YEARS.

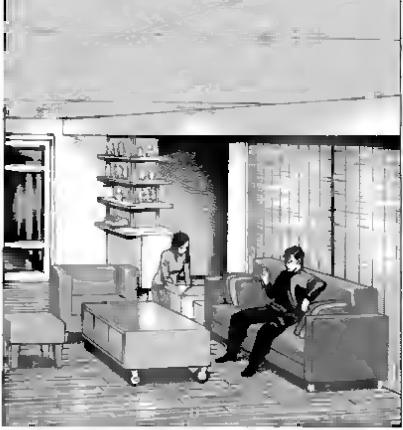

WARM UP THE STETHO-SCOPE FOR ME.
YES SIR.

FWOOOOO

OOOO

OMMM

HIDE-KATSU.
LET'S... LET'S CALL IT QUITS.
DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
I LOVE YOU.



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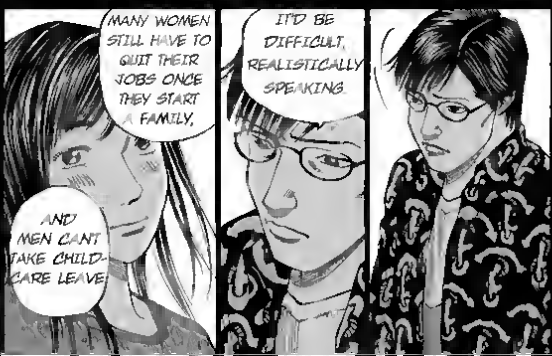
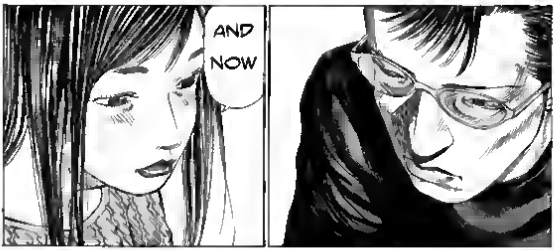
AND HAYASHI'S BEEN CALLING A LOT LATELY, TOO...
IT'S KIND OF A PAIN, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH
SORRY--I GOT INVITED TO A PARTY TOMORROW
I DONT WANT TO GO, BUT ARAI WONT TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER
IS IT OKAY IF I LIKE YOU, TOO?
IS IT...

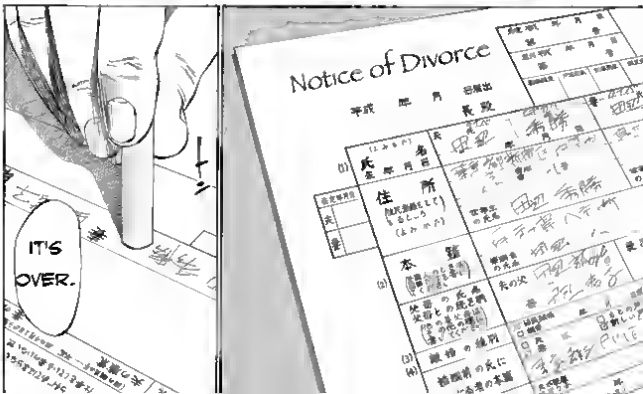
DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT WANT KIDS SOMEDAY?

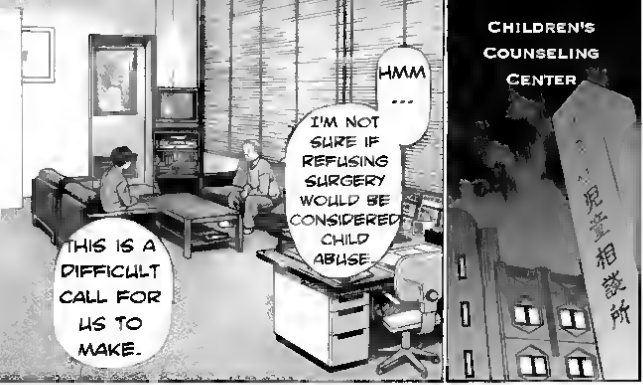
DO YOU LIKE KIDS?
HUH?

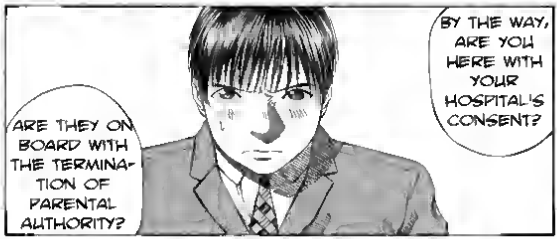

MANY WOMEN STILL HAVE TO QUIT THEIR JOBS ONCE THEY START A FAMILY.
AND MEN CAN'T TAKE CHILD-CARE LEAVE.
IT'D BE DIFFICULT, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING.

STILL,
I WOULD LIKE KIDS...
BESIDES...
MY PARENTS WORKED HARD TO RAISE ME, AFTER ALL.
AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO DENY THEM A GRAND-CHILD.
LOOK AT THIS VIEW.
I'D WANT MY KIDS TO SEE THIS SOMEDAY


AND NOW


IT'S OVER.
Notice of Divorce


HMM ...
I'M NOT SURE IF REFUSING SURGERY WOULD BE CONSIDERED CHILD ABUSE.
THIS IS A DIFFICULT CALL FOR US TO MAKE.
CHILDREN'S COUNSELING CENTER
児童相談所


BY THE WAY, ARE YOU HERE WITH YOUR HOSPITAL'S CONSENT?
ARE THEY ON BOARD WITH THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY?

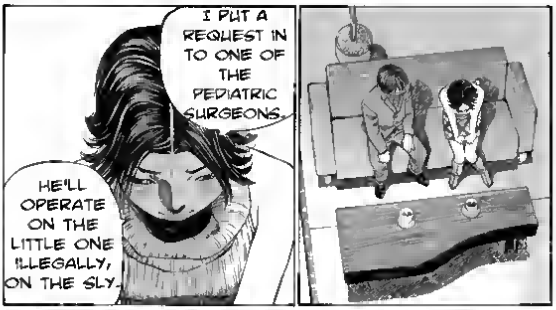
GET LOST!
IF YOU WON'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, STAY OUT OF OUR AFFAIRS!
JUST A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU!

IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.

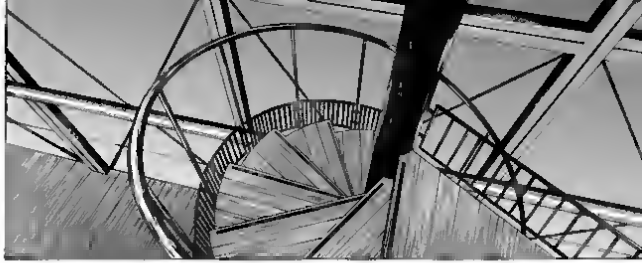
LOSING EVEN MORE WEIGHT OFF THAT TINY BODY--
IS FADING FAST, WITHERING AWAY.
THE YOUNGER ONE
HE'LL BE NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONES.

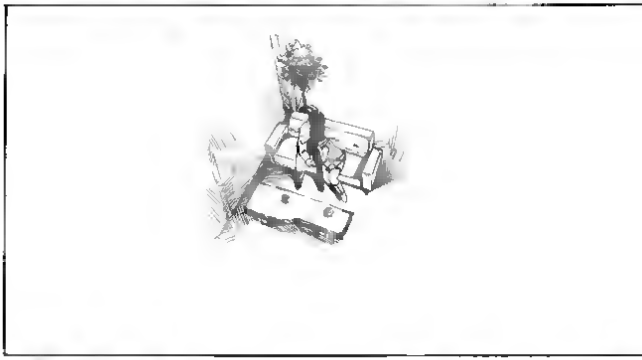
AND IN THE END, WE CAN'T DO A THING.
ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT PARENTAL AUTHORITY.
IT'S SO STUPID.

Loica
WE COULD GET MARRIED.


I PUT A REQUEST IN TO ONE OF THE PEDIATRIC SURGEONS.
HE'LL OPERATE ON THE LITTLE ONE ILLEGALLY, ON THE SLY.

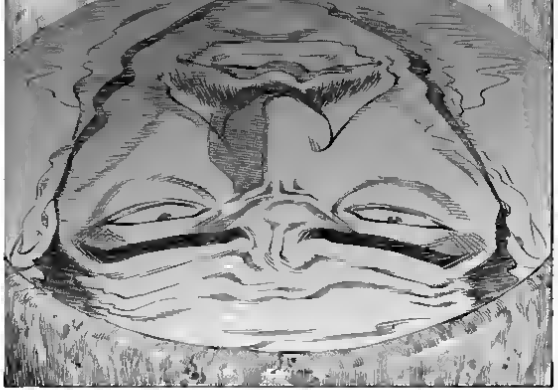
I'LL QUIT MY JOB HERE,
WORK SOMEWHERE-- ANYWHERE-- ELSE...
AND THEN WE'LL GET MARRIED,
AND WE CAN RAISE HIM TOGETHER





KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
HAH-

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?
I DON'T KNOW.

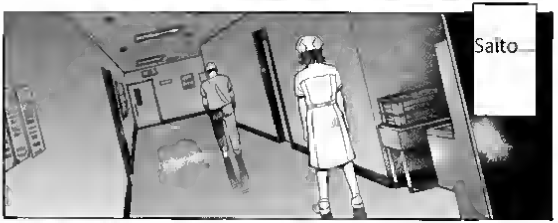


YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE, Y'KNOW?
SAITO ...

CAN'T MANAGE TO DO A THING,
BUT DAMN IF YOU CAN'T STIR A MAN'S SOUL.

THE ORDER FOR THE TWINS' REGULAR BLOODWORK HASN'T COME THROUGH.
WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?
DR. TAKASAGO!
BLOOD-WORK? THIS LATE IN THE GAME?

NO MORE.
IT'S OVER.


Saito

But this is what it's like.

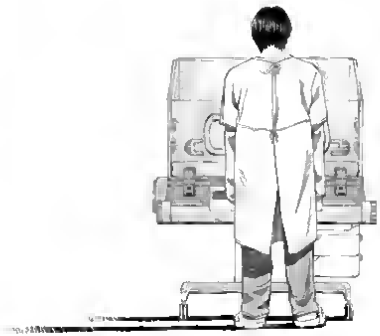
PEDIATRIC SURGERY
BOW TO ME ALL YOU WANT, BUT MY ANSWER STANDS.

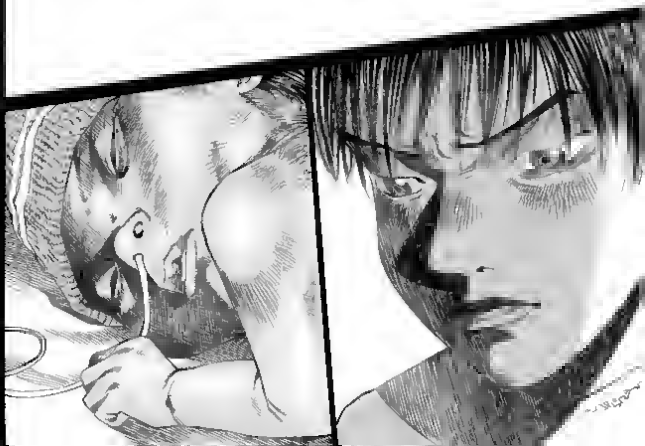
I CAN'T DO THE SURGERY.
OPERATING WITHOUT CONSENT IS A CRIME.

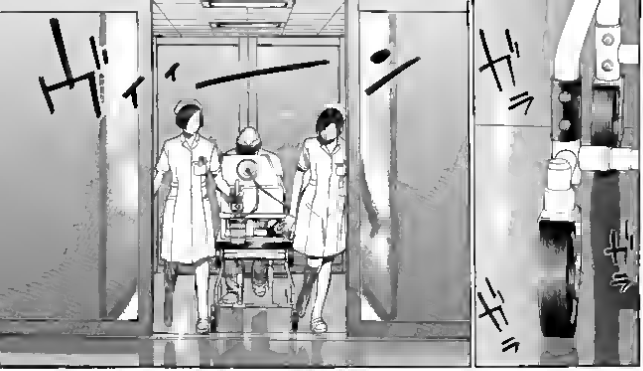
CUTTING OPEN SOMEONE'S BODY WITHOUT PERMISSION--
WELL, IT'S ASSAULT, THAT'S WHAT.

GO ON, NOW.

#35
It Starts With One



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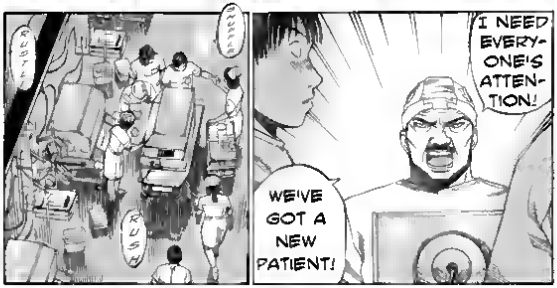
ガヤガヤ
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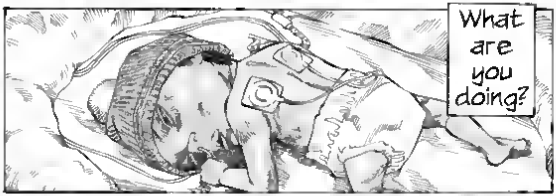
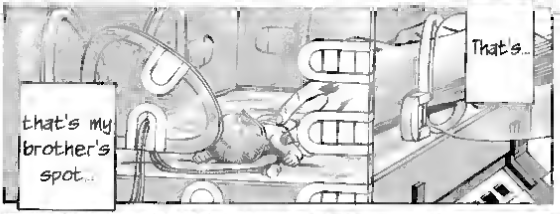
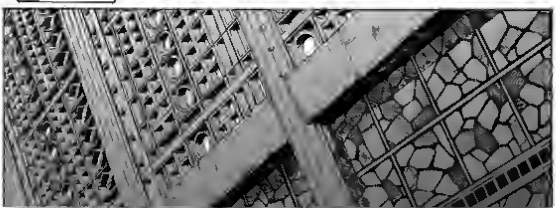
ガヤガヤ
I NEED EVERY-ONE'S ATTEN-TION!
WE'VE GOT A NEW PATIENT!

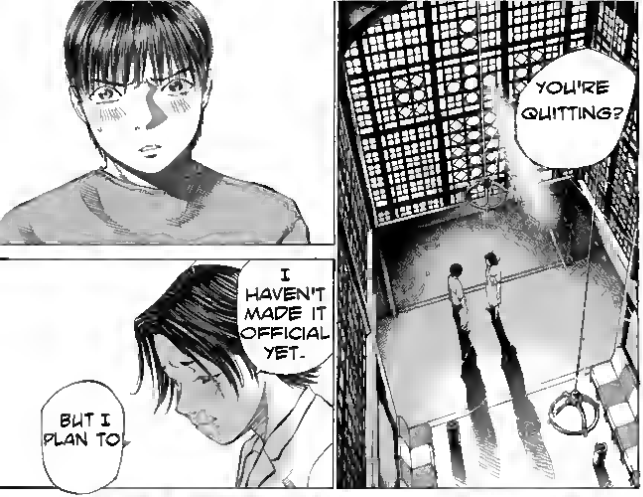
HUH ...?
WE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THIS ONE.
SAITO.

DAMN... GOT A HIGH RESPIRATORY RATE.
TRY RAISING HIS O_2 TO 35%.
YESSIR.
ONCE HE GETS SETTLED, I'LL CALL A CONFERENCE WITH THE NURSES.

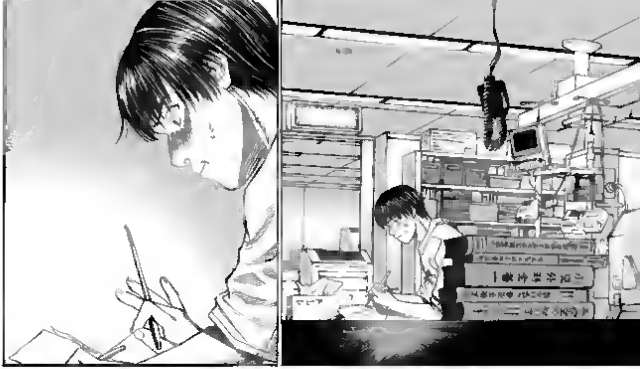

What are you doing?


That's...
that's my brother's spot...




YOU'RE QUITTING?
I HAVEN'T MADE IT OFFICIAL YET.
BUT I PLAN TO.

HOW STRANGE...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO GET PAST THESE DEATHS BEFORE.
IT MUST BE YOUR FAULT.



Practice by neatly
sewing up things
that tear easily,
like tissues.

Surgery for Pediatric Intestinal Blockage

PLEASE.
HELP US!

WE WENT THROUGH FERTILITY TREATMENTS FOR THIS CHILD!
I'D GIVE MY HEART, MY LIVER-- ANYTHING FOR MY BABY!
SO PLEASE. I BEG YOU.

Dammit
Why can't I sleep?
And what's this...
this burning in my heart?

...DOES.

SO YOU'RE LEAVING TODAY, TOO?

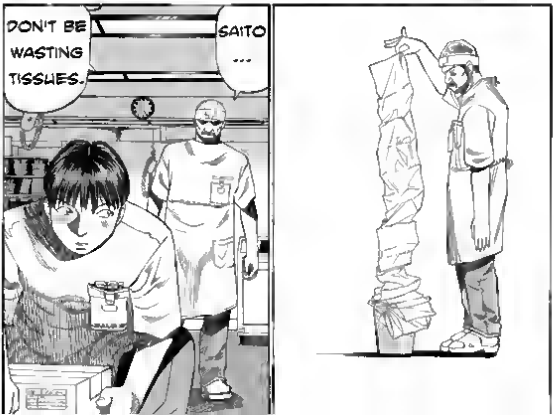
CAN I GIVE YOU A RIDE?

HIDE-KATSU?

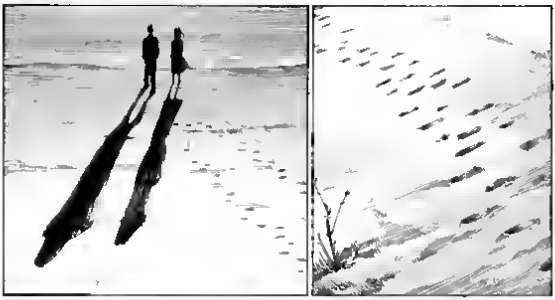
I WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN...

YOU SEEM TIRED.
?
SMACK

empty
Shit.


DON'T BE WASTING TISSUES.
SAITO ...

WE'VE MOVED ON TO THE NEXT PATIENT...
IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THE TRUTH, GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
LOOK, YOU'RE JUST GETTIN' IN THE WAY.
ぺこっ
SORRY.
THE LITTLE TWIN IS DEAD AND GONE!
URP...

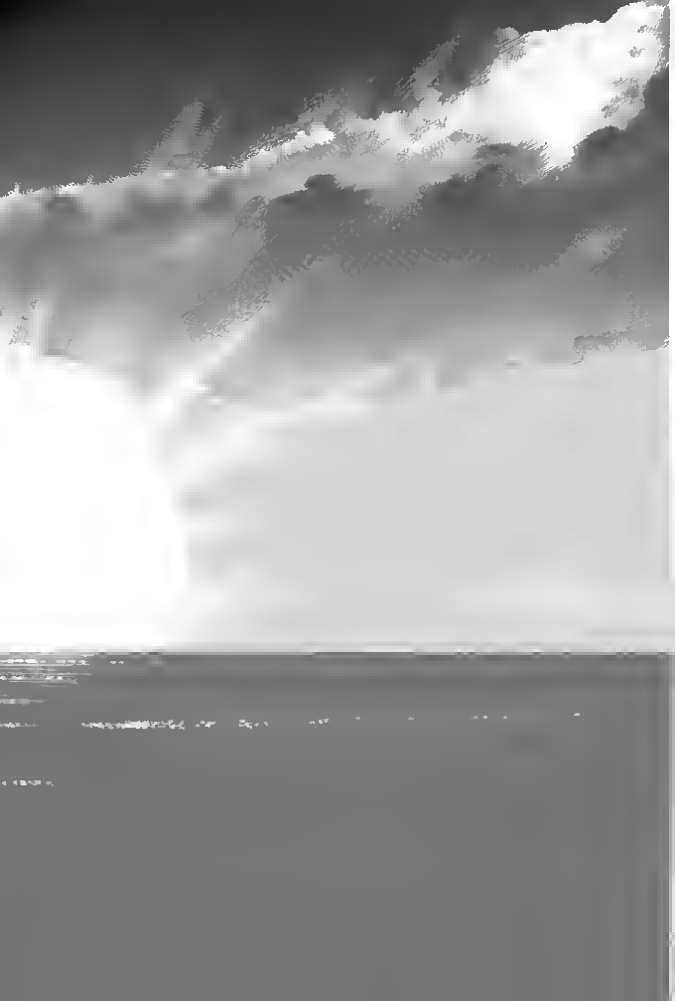


WE'LL BE MISERABLE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES..
IF WE JUST STAND HERE AND THAT THAT CHILD DIE.

MAYBE, BUT...
WE SHOULDER THAT MISERY SO OUR CHILD WON'T HAVE TO LIVE A HARD LIFE.
I GUESS SO.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
THE SUNSET--
SO BEAUTIFUL...

LIFE--
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...

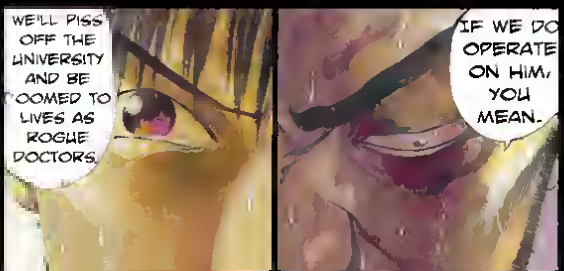


PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
ELRRRGH
HOFF
HE'S ALIVE...
THE YOUNGER TWIN
IS STILL ALIVE!

SHE

IF WE DON'T OPERATE ON THAT TWIN NOW,
WE'LL REGRET IT THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

SHE
SHE
SHE


WE'LL PISS OFF THE UNIVERSITY AND BE DOOMED TO LIVES AS ROGUE DOCTORS.
IF WE DO OPERATE ON HIM, YOU MEAN.

BUT

WE'LL BE SAVING A LIFE!

SAVING
A LIFE--

I'LL HELP.
YOU'RE TAKING HIM TO THE OR?
YOU GONNA DO THIS ALONE?
YOU IDIOT ...
WHO'LL BE THE ANES-THETIST?
...WHAT AM I SAYING? C'MON!
A NURSE I KNOW IS WAITING IN THE OR.

ENOUGH!!

I WON'T LET YOU STOP ME.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'LL LET YOU IN THE OR.
ガラ
ガラ
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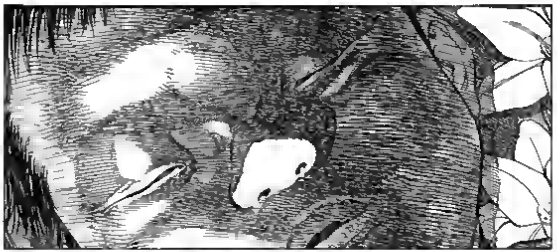
BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU DO SAVE THAT BABY,
WHO THE HELL IS GONNA RAISE HIM!?
HOW IS THAT
EVEN REMOTELY MY PROBLEM?



WHY SHOULD DOCTORS
HAVE TO TAKE ON THAT RESPONSIBILITY, TOO?

Turnin' birth...
and birthed into parent and child...
We got our work cut out for us.
It's important to maintain a sense of distance.
Get sucked in and we just wind up blind to what's around us.
And if you're not ready to take on that risk,
you're in no position to make a baby.
Never, ever get close with that family.
We're outsiders.

urp.
ALL WE CAN DO
IS WORK TO SAVE THE PATIENT.

DOCTORS DON'T GET TO DECIDE
IF THEY LIVE OR DIE!

W-wait
Sato~?
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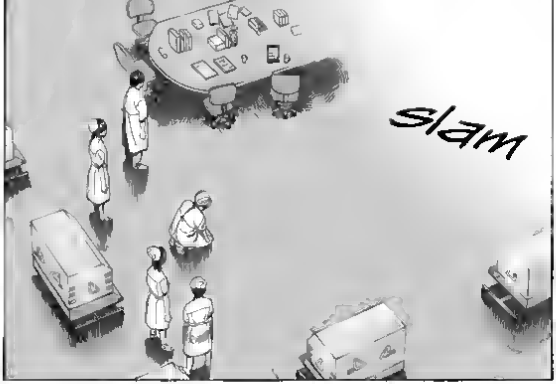
ガラ
Wait...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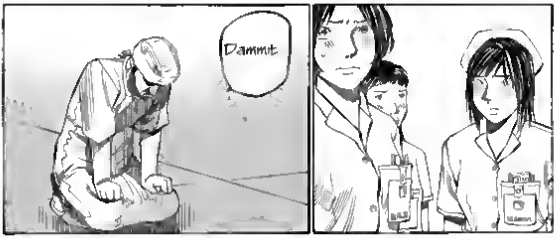
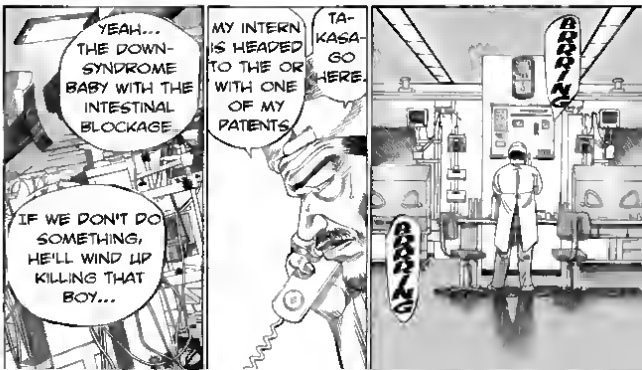

Dammit


YEAH... THE DOWN-SYNDROME BABY WITH THE INTESTINAL BLOCKAGE
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, HE'LL WIND UP KILLING THAT BOY...
MY INTERN IS HEADED TO THE OR WITH ONE OF MY PATIENTS
TA-KASA-GO HERE.
BEEP/N
BEEP/N

So you're saying
you want me to perform an emergency surgery?
I can't do that.
Operating without consent is assault.
223
Shit.

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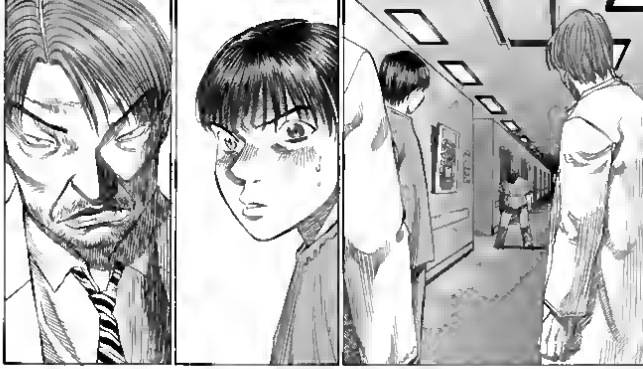
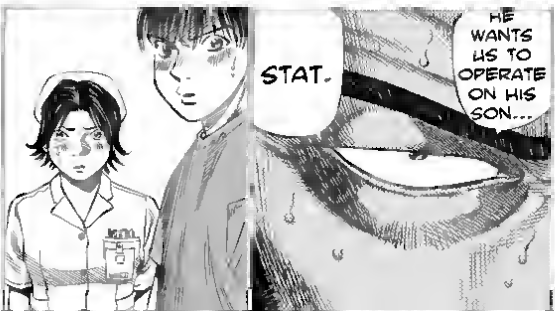
JUST HEARD FROM DR TAKA-SAGO...

DAMMIT...
SHIT...
SON OF A BITCH!!



I JUST NOW...
GOT A PHONE CALL FROM MR. TANABE.


HE WANTS US TO OPERATE ON HIS SON...
STAT.

NO WAY...
WOULD YOU
PERFORM THE SURGERY?

I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE PARENTAL CONSENT...

DAMMIT!
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?

I'LL BE KICKED OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL...
MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO HANG UP MY SCRUBS FOR GOOD...

I GOT FOUR KIDS TO WORRY ABOUT--
MUSTA LOST MY DAMN MIND!

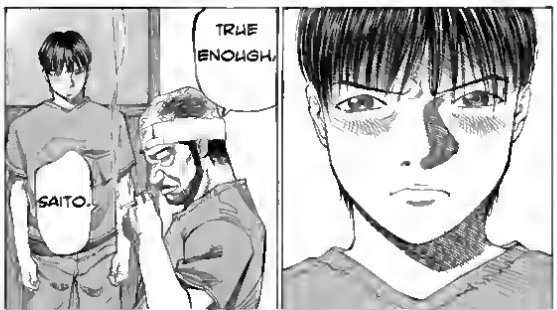
SHIT...

#37
Sunset

GEEZ ...
DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT.

I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE.
I OUGHTA KICK YOUR ASS.

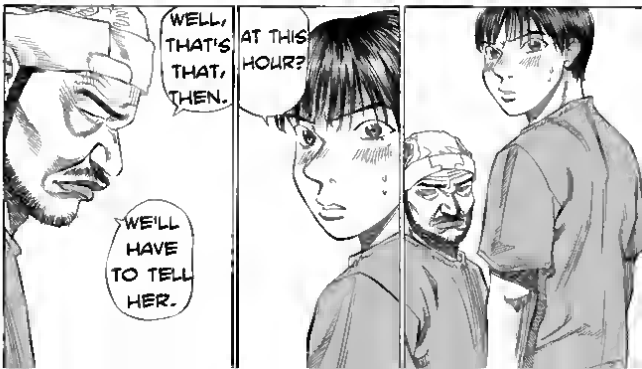
DOCTORS DON'T GET TO DECIDE IF PATIENTS LIVE OR DIE.
ALL WE CAN DO IS WORK TO SAVE 'EM.

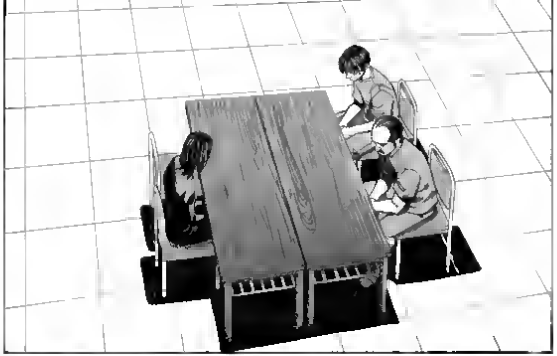

TRUE ENOUGH.
SAITO...

STILL,
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL THAT TO THE SUFFERING PARENTS.
I GUESS PEOPLE WHO SAVE LIVES
DO HAVE A KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY, EH?
TELL ME,
SAITO ...

ZZZ
ZZZ
THAT DID THE TRICK.
YES ...
THAT DID THE TRICK.

MRS. TANABE IS HERE!
DR. TAKA-SAGO!


WELL, THAT'S THAT, THEN.
WE'LL HAVE TO TELL HER.
AT THIS HOUR?



ACTU-
ALLY,
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.

I LEFT MY HUSBAND.
WE BETRAYED YOUR TRUST AND THAT OF YOUR HUSBAND.
ALTHOUGH THE SURGICAL CONSENT FORM WAS UNSIGNED--

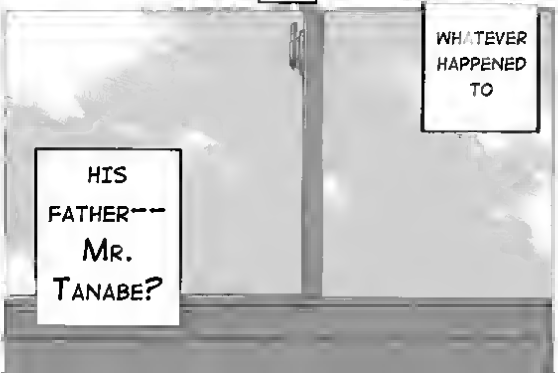
I'LL ...
I'LL RAISE MY SON ON MY OWN.

SO PLEASE--
GO AHEAD WITH THE SURGERY.
I'LL MAKE HIM HAPPY...
I PROMISE

WAAAAAH

THAT WAS A FEW DAYS AGO.

THE TWIN IS DOING WELL AFTER SURGERY.
BUT


WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
HIS FATHER--- MR. TANABE?

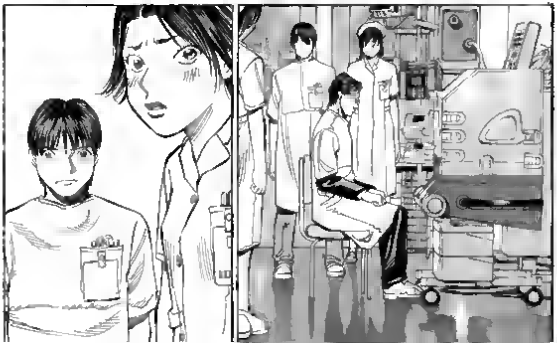
IN THE END, I REAL-IZED
I DIDN'T KNOW THE RIGHT ANSWER ANYMORE.

BUT SOME-HOW

I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT
THE ANSWER IS TO KEEP ON THINKING.

MY LITTLE PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES--
I REMEMBER THEM ALL SO CLEARLY, EVEN NOW.

I'LL BE THINKING ABOUT YOU
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.



HI...
I'M YOUR FATHER.

I WANT YOU TO SEE.
THERE'S SOMETHING
Dad..

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